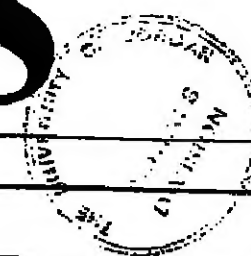


THE TIMES

No. 65,714

MONDAY OCTOBER 21 1996



RK

TODAY

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Eight guides to improve your home, your cooking and your health for only £1.98 each

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TODAY

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£50,000 TO PLAY FOR

Our Interactive Team Football game

PLUS: The Libby Purves column

WEDNESDAY

NIGELLA LAWSON and ALAN COREN

Our midweek columnists

PLUS: Win an Olivetti multimedia notebook, in Interface,

THURSDAY

FILMS

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PLUS: Dr Thomas Stuttford's medical briefing

FRIDAY

POP

Nigel Williamson meets the McGarrigle sisters

PLUS: The Valerie Grove interview

SATURDAY

THE MISFIT

Ginny Dougary meets Arthur Miller, in the Magazine

PLUS: WEEKEND CAR, 96 WEEKEND MONEY, 1015 FOR YOUNG TIMES READERS AND THE DIRECTORY, OUR NEW VIDEO, RADIO AND ENTERTAINMENT

Frances Lawrence's call to tackle violence receives widespread support

Party leaders back widow's manifesto

By JILL SHERMAN AND JOANNA BALE

JOHN MAJOR and Tony Blair yesterday supported Frances Lawrence's call for a national movement to tackle violence and promote good citizenship.

Both party leaders praised Mrs Lawrence, whose husband was murdered at the end of last year, and endorsed her personal manifesto to reverse the deterioration of society. She also received backing from Paddy Ashdown and leaders of the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church.

Mrs Lawrence, whose recommendations are published in *The Times* today, would like to see a nationwide grassroots movement, led by teachers, the police and parents, "dedicated to healing our fractured society and banishing violence".

She has also called for schools to provide lessons in good citizenship at an early age, a ban on the sale of combat knives, less violence on television, and the promotion of the family unit.

Her initiative was yesterday welcomed by the Prime Minister who said: "We have all admired the dignity that Frances Lawrence has shown in the face of this tragic murder of her husband. I entirely share her wish to ensure that this tragedy becomes a focus for a movement to tackle the problem of violence in our society."

Mr Blair also gave broad backing to Mrs Lawrence's programme and promised that Labour would make lessons on good citizenship part of the national curriculum.

"I warmly endorse the thrust of what Frances Lawrence says," he said. "I am delighted that she has spoken out in this way. The issues she raises should be at the centre of the political debate. They cross traditional left and right boundaries and that is no bad thing."

Mrs Lawrence believes that parents should encourage their children to think creatively rather than "edding" them to their bedrooms with videos or computer games. She asks: "Is it not horrifying to hear a child airily dismiss reading books because

Five teenagers were held for questioning by south London police after Anthony Savage, 16, died from head injuries sustained during a gang fight in Woolwich at the weekend.

he has information on a computer?" And she calls for more children to go to school on foot rather than in cars "like freight behind plate glass".

As well as citizenship, politics — in the broadest sense — should be taught at an early age so that children are taught to think seriously about the nature and progression of the country. Children should understand that "dilemmas are not solved in three episodes of a soap opera" she adds.

Mr Major made clear that his election campaign would focus on many of the issues raised by

Mrs Lawrence. Consideration was being given to including civic responsibility in the national curriculum, legislation was already on the statute books to ban the sale of knives to those under 16, and the Government had recently acted to tighten video licensing procedures.

Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, said: "Frances Lawrence has spoken for many people who believe that our society needs to rediscover moral and spiritual values. I am grateful to her. I would like to urge that special attention be given to the family, schools and parishes, which should be the key formative influences in the lives of young people."

The Rt Rev Nigel McCulloch, Bishop of Wakefield and chairman of the Church of England's communications committee, said: "I would want to back her campaign very firmly. I believe that if we continue to move away from the Judeo-Christian roots which have enabled us in the past to understand the difference between right and wrong and to care for our neighbours, then we will become a very selfish and violent society."

Peter Conroy, whose daughter Nikki Conroy was stabbed to death at her school in Middlesbrough in 1994, said he and his wife Diane would "certainly give Mrs Lawrence any support she would need".

My manifesto, page 14

Leading article, page 21



Frances Lawrence and her son Lucien. She wants good to come from her family tragedy

Row over single-currency tax shakes German coalition

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THE German governing coalition was badly shaken at the weekend by a fierce dispute over how to raise sufficient tax revenue to plug the budget deficit and stay on target to meet the criteria for entering the European monetary union.

"Cheats!" shouted the front page headline of the mass circulation *Bild am Sonntag*, accusing the junior coalition partner Free Democrats of betraying an earlier promise to cut taxes. During negotiations last week, Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, told the Free Democrats that they would either have to abandon their

promises or accept an increase in petrol tax: there was no other way of closing the £2.5 billion gap in next year's Budget.

The argument has put a real strain on the cohesion of the Bonn Government and has overshadowed Helmut Kohl's opening speech to the Christian Democrat party congress today.

His speech will include a broad hint that he intends to stand for reelection in October 1998. The move is sure to gain his party's heavy approval, but the budget crisis has cast some doubt on whether the Government can hold together for that long.

In London, Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, urged Britain last night to be ready

to enter the European single currency at the start of 1999, the deadline for the first round of monetary union.

Speaking on BBC's *Money Programme* Mr George, who refused to endorse or condemn the merits of joining a single currency, said: "I regard it as absolutely fundamental that Britain should be ready on 1 January 1999 to prosper whether the decision is that we should join or whether the decision is that we should stay out."

Referendum Party, page 8

George Brock, page 11

Leading article and Letters, page 21

George warning, page 48

Thief jailed for taking work home

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

ROBERT MORTON set out to build his dream home, complete with indoor swimming pool, after moving from London to a smallholding in Lincolnshire.

In three years he transformed Morton's Lot, even though his pay was cut. It was possible because much of it — the bath, the sink, the lavatory, the fencing, a garden seat, the patio and even the front gate and the posts which held it up — came from British Rail, where he worked as a maintenance supervisor. Even the loft floor was made from BR wood.

Labour was no problem either, often being supplied by BR staff,

some of them working on Sunday overtime rates.

But the indoor swimming pool proved to be Morton's downfall after part for the £4,000 frame was delivered to his work by mistake. It prompted British Transport Police to investigate Morton, who had been suspended without pay for two weeks for stealing cement.

Police found the pool under construction and 350 paving slabs and £600 worth of strip lighting, ordered through work, were stacked up ready for installation. Lincoln Crown Court was told.

The house that BR built is now due to be repossessed and Morton, 42, of Crowland, near Peterborough, is in jail after admitting

eight charges of theft of property from BR. He asked for a further 25 similar matters, involving more than £13,000, to be considered before being sentenced to 18 months on Friday.

More than 150 items were removed after being identified as having been taken from work, although Morton said that many of the tools found in his workshop were on loan because he did some jobs at home and was on 24-hours call.

His barrister, Hugh Davies, said Morton, who owed £20,000 to loan companies, faced ruin. He blamed his problems on a change in jobs which led to a £7,000 a year drop in pay.



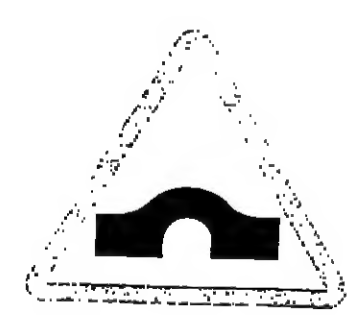
"If you want to tell Sarge about the new helmets or shall I?"

Helmet campaign

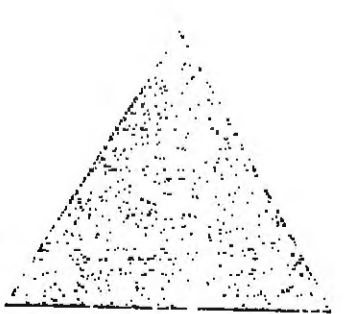
Police officers are strongly resisting plans to replace the traditional helmet with cycling-style headgear that can withstand a blow from a baseball bat. More than half of 12,700 officers surveyed were against the change.

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BY ALICE THOMSON
POLITICAL REPORTER

Peter Riddell page 20

مَكْزَا مِنْ الْأَصْلِ

New York yellow cab driver speeds off with Plasticine movie stars locked in boot

Oh 'eck, chuck ... Wallace and Gromit are missing

FROM QUENTIN LETTS
IN NEW YORK

WALLACE and his loyal dog Gromit were yesterday missing, feared dumped, after being left in the back of a New York taxi. Plasticine models of the Oscar-winning British film puppets, said to be of incalculable value, had arrived from London on Saturday with their creator, Nick Park, for a promotional tour.

Their plane landed amid monsoon-strength rain and in the confusion of the downpour the driver who took Mr Park to his Manhattan hotel drove away with Wallace and Gromit in the boot of his yellow cab.

Mr Park, 37, whose films take years of intricate fingerwork, was "inconceivable" yesterday. "I feel as though I have lost my best pals," he said from his bed at the Righa Royal Hotel. "Devastated. There is no other description for how I feel."

The models were of Wallace on his motorcycle and the flapping-eared Gromit in the sidecar. They are the originals from the animation film *A Close Shave*. Although the 9in-high motorcycle alone cost £6,000 to make, its market value is probably far greater.

Arthur Sheriff, a spokesman for Mr Park, said: "These models are national treasures. Nick is not confident he is going to be reunited with them." When the taxi drew up



Nick Park and a yellow cab in New York yesterday: "I feel as though I have lost my best pals"

at the Righa Royal on Saturday afternoon there was a scum as waiting hotel guests attempted to hail the vehicle.

"Half a dozen people were trying to get in even as we were trying to get out," Mr Sheriff said. "We were overwhelmed and had no time to get the case out of the boot. The driver seemed to be in a

hurry to get away." Mr Park sprinted after the departing cab but lost trace of its rear lights in the downpour after it turned a corner. When he returned to the hotel foyer his eyes bore a hollow look.

The measure of his dismay tended to discount the possibility that this was a publicity stunt. In the past few years the

Bristol-based Mr Park has been one of the reliable stars of British film-making and his name is in danger of becoming a regular at the American Academy Awards ceremony. He is respected in movie circles for the technical proficiency of his animation, linked to an eccentric and very English charm.

In the course of his work he spends considerable amounts of time over each minute of finished film, and the missing puppets each represent several months of handwork. His films have won praise and awards from Japan to Africa, but this was the first time that Wallace and Gromit had ventured across the Atlantic to America.

When they went missing, an appeal was made to all police stations and New York's Taxi and Limousine Commission agreed to hunt for the missing models, made of Plasticine on ball-and-socket jointed frames.

But it is hard to be optimistic New York cabbies are not known for their tenderheartedness. Despite the Oscars, Wallace and Gromit are little known in America and it is unlikely that the Indian-born driver, who had imperfect English, would recognise them when he opened his boot.

Gromit is a resourceful hound who relishes a challenge, but this time the duo may have met their match.



Worse than *A Close Shave*: Wallace and Gromit in the Oscar-winning film

Russians too poor to return rare book

BY JOANNA BAILE

RUSSIA'S State Library has been consigned by academics on the Internet after it failed to return a rare book to Aberdeen University, pleading poverty.

When the university asked for the valuable botanical volume back, the Russians sent a card saying they could not afford the postage. The card stated: "Dear colleague, our library is in a difficult financial situation. We don't fulfil your request and we don't return your book."

Jennifer Bevan, a university librarian, was dismayed at losing the book, one of Daniel Oliver's series on the flora of tropical Africa, published between 1905 and 1937. "We discovered that the library couldn't afford the £5 or £10 postage to return the book because that could make the difference between someone eating or not eating. At one stage we were worried the book might have been sold for the price of a sack of potatoes."

She said: "We put a message out on the Internet's Library Information Service link for librarians to warn other libraries. We were amazed at the e-mail replies that came back."

This year the institution only received 20 per cent of the cash needed to stay open and staff had a 30 per cent wage cut imposed and now get £35 a month.

The British Council in Moscow has agreed to arrange for the book to be brought home.

Widow hails official backing in baby fight

BY ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

DIANE BLOOD said she was thrilled yesterday that the Government had given its tacit support to her fight to be allowed to have a baby using her dead husband's sperm.

The 30-year-old widow was distraught last week when the High Court ruled that she could not be artificially inseminated because her husband had not given written consent before he died.

Health ministers made it clear yesterday that they sympathised with Mrs Blood's predicament and said they would allow a free vote if a private member's Bill was put before the House to change the fertilisation laws. The Bill would allow widows like Mrs Blood to be artificially inseminated if they believed their late husband would have wished them to bear their child.

Mrs Blood, a businesswoman from Workop, Nottinghamshire, said: "If the law is changed I will take advantage of it the second it comes into force. After that it is up to God whether I succeed in carrying Stephen's child."

Mrs Blood's husband died last year from bacterial meningitis, his sperm having been taken while he was in a coma. She had evidence that he had "longed" for her to have his child but she had no written proof of his consent to become her donor. The couple were already making preparations at their bungalow for a baby they mistakenly thought they were having naturally.

She described the Government's backing as "fantastic news", adding: "The Government's stance makes me feel vindicated."

Mrs Blood remortgaged her house to fight the legal battle



Blood: felt vindicated by government support

and is determined to take her case to the Appeal Court. An appeal fund has accumulated more than £30,000, but she estimates she needs another £75,000. She admitted that if she lost and the law was changed, she would be just as thrilled.

The infertility experts Lord Winston of Hammersmith and Baroness Warnock, and the Labour MP Joan Lestor, have already said they are willing to put forward a backbench Bill. Lord Winston, a pioneer of test tube baby treatment, said the most obvious way to change the law would be to insert the word "normally" before the words "requiring written consent" and allow the judge to use his discretion.

With MPs guaranteed a free vote and no opposition from the Government, the measure stands a chance of becoming

law in the next Parliamentary session given enough Parliamentary time, although it would have to be introduced almost immediately.

Mrs Blood's solicitor said last night that legislation may come too late. "It is of great concern to Diane Blood and her lawyers that the public do not think that her case is likely to be resolved by new legislation by a private member's Bill," Richard Stein said.

"The timescale involved and the shortage of available Parliamentary time may well mean that the new legislation comes too late."

"We are very confident about the chances of success of an appeal and we are very much relying on the legal process achieving what Diane wants. It would be a mistake to think that this case will be solved through Parliament."

Mr Stein said that developments had let the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority "off the hook" from the large amount of public opposition it faced. "It is important to remember it does have the power with the law as it stands to deliver what Diane wants."

Mrs Blood had said earlier: "Whilst the Government acceptance of a Bill is fantastic news and may help others in the future, one of the points my case seeks to argue is that the HFEA already has the necessary element to allow me to proceed by the way of their discretionary powers."

The Department of Health said yesterday: "We would not stand in the way of the Bill. We have great sympathy for the lady, but the law is the law and the judge made his decision based on that."



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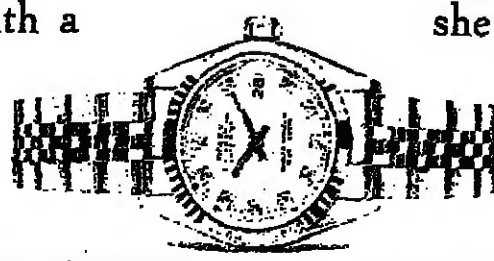
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Fiat heir reveals romantic designs on London architect

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE heir to the Fiat empire is to marry an Anglo-American architect who lives in London. Giovanni Agnelli, who is reckoned one of Europe's most eligible bachelors, will marry Avery Howe before the end of the year.

Miss Howe was born in New York, but has spent many years in Britain, beginning her career as an architect in the studios of Sir Richard Rogers. The news that Signor Agnelli had fallen for Miss Howe emerged at the weekend when he registered the engagement at the town hall at Montepoli Valdarno, in the province of Pisa. Signor Agnelli is head of the Piaggio works at Pontedera, where the Vespa is manufactured, and has a magnificent Renaissance villa in the Tuscan hills near by. Signor Agnelli is nephew

of the Fiat patriarch and founder, Gianni Agnelli, and his designated heir as company head. He spent his childhood holidays at the villa at Varramista, which was inspired by Michelangelo's drawings, and has lived there since 1993, when he took over Piaggio.

The wedding is expected to take place by the end of the year and according to local gossip could be as soon as next weekend. But the parish priest refused last night to divulge the date or to say whether the wedding would be in Italy or England. Signor Agnelli said it would be a "quiet family affair", but social commentators suggest this is unlikely given the sheer size and power of the Agnelli dynasty. Miss Howe will be 31 on Wednesday, a year younger than her fiancé.

They first met when they were at Brown College, Rhode Island, he studying international economics and she studying architecture. They met again in Italy three years ago when Miss Howe was engaged as a consultant to redesign the company museum for Piaggio.

He entered the family business under a false name to experience the life of a manual worker on the factory floor before beginning his climb to the top, eventually taking his father's place on the Fiat board. "She has won Giovanni with her intellect as well as her looks" was the verdict of Oggi magazine.

Signor Agnelli is credited with turning a £12 million loss at Piaggio into a £20 million profit within three years by applying US management techniques.

NHS internal market an illusion, says watchdog

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE "internal market" in the National Health Service is largely an illusion, according to a study by health watchdogs.

The reforms, which are estimated to have added £1.7 billion a year to costs, have had little impact, says a report by the Association of Community Health Councils. Five years after the internal market was introduced, with claims that it would mean a new era of choice and competition, most people are still sent to the hospitals they would have used before.

The reforms turned health authorities and GP fundholders into

"purchasers" who were supposed to shop around to find the best care. Hospitals became "providers", organised into trusts to compete for business. But few purchasers have used their spending muscle by taking their money elsewhere. Researchers who surveyed 129 community health councils in England and Wales found that nearly three-quarters reported that their local health authority had failed to move contracts from hospitals. Half found that their GP

fundholders "stick with the devil they know".

The findings confirm results from studies by the National Audit Office and the National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts. The latest report says: "There has been less change in the use of particular providers than might have been expected. Market forces do not appear to be very strong." It blames the shortage of effective local competition, poor information about the cost-effec-

tiveness of rival trusts, old loyalties and force of habit.

"The limited change in referrals does not mean that the internal market has made no difference. Sometimes the threat of removing a contract has been sufficient to improve a provider's standards. However, if the threat is seldom put into practice, providers may come to see it as largely empty."

There is some proof of claims by opponents of the reforms that they would create a "two-tier" service.

One hospital had a dedicated ward for fundholding practices. A new cardiologist was offering pacemakers to the patients of fundholders only. One fundholder negotiated a maximum eight-month waiting list while the health authority contract specified 15 months.

Towards the end of the financial year, hospitals try to hold back admissions for health authority patients on "block contracts" but welcome fundholders' patients

because they bring extra money.

There is scarce proof that care has improved. "The most important aspect of the quality of treatment is the difference it makes to the patient's health. There is little hard evidence of improvement on this score," says the report.

The British Medical Association has issued an ultimatum to universities over the rates of pay for doctors working in academic posts. Unless these are brought up to the same levels as those of NHS

colleagues within two months, advertisements for university posts in the *British Medical Journal* will be surrounded by a black box, warning prospective applicants that the university is not paying the national rate.

On average, NHS doctors have been awarded a pay rise of 3.8 per cent from April 1 this year. But the universities, faced with a shortage of money, say they can pay an increase of only 1.5 per cent.

How reformed is the NHS? (Association of Community Health Councils for England and Wales, 30 Drayton Park, London N5 1PB, £12.50).

Cash considerations threaten to undermine GP-consultant relationships

IT SHOULD come as no surprise that GPs continue to send their patients to the same consultants working at the same hospitals they used before fund-holding became established.

In my youth, family doctors often accompanied their patients on a visit to the consultant and there was an actual consultation after the examination. The GP provided knowledge of the patient's background and past medi-

cal history; the specialist was able to add his opinion, derived from more detailed expertise, to the subsequent discussion.

The medical world is now too hurried for such consultations, but cases are still discussed over the telephone by family doctors and hospital consultants and relationships are established that serve patients well. It would be a matter of deep regret if these important relationships

were to be undermined for the sake of a few pounds saved if the practice had shopped around for the cheapest buy.

If the bureaucracy involved were not so expensive, it should have cost less to use contracts between fund-holding practices and trust hospitals. The value of these savings has to be balanced against GPs' loss of freedom of choice over consultants. Pre-fund-holding, the bulk



MEDICAL BRIEFING

of referrals were sent — as the research shows they still are — to the nearest hospital where relationships between GPs and consultants had been established. The occasional patient who needs

something rather different is now denied it.

As the hospitals' financial crisis worsens this winter, as it will, the disparity between the service provided to patients in fund-holding prac-

tices with contracts to a local hospital, and to those in non-fund-holding practices, will increase.

Southampton University Hospital, a centre of excellence in all branches of medical care, illustrates the point. Local non-fund-holding practices have been told that less urgent cases will have to wait until after next April. The hospital will continue to see the patients of fund-holding practices. "Less

urgent" does not only mean hernias and piles, but also the investigative procedures for patients with the less sinister types of angina and many other heart conditions. No department is more highly regarded than the cardiac unit at Southampton, but its skills will now be rationed and the ration determined by the nature of GPs' relationship to the NHS.

Doctors were encouraged to see the practice of medicine

as a service and their patients' health as their only consideration. This sense of service is now being diluted by financial considerations and the bottom line is sometimes cash balances rather than best medicine. Doctors have always shopped around, but for the best care and not the best bargain.

DR THOMAS STUTTFORD

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Museum visitors suffer for their art

By BILL FROST

VISITORS to many of Britain's finest museums risk a range of health hazards including exhaustion and "non-specific illness". The elderly and unfit are particularly at risk, but nobody should underestimate the dangers posed by a trip to the Tate or the V&A, says a survey conducted by the magazine *Museums and Galleries*.

At the very least, visitors face hazards including dehydration, blisters, eye-strain, cricked necks, back pain and headaches. For reasons the survey cannot explain, February is the worst month for museum-goers.

Peter Freedman, the magazine's editor, said: "With their endless corridors and blockbuster exhibitions our giant museums can be a gruelling physical test for anyone, let alone the sort of middle-aged, elderly and unfit visitors who make up a large share of the museum audience."

"The British Museum alone boasts two and a half miles of corridors and several million items on show under its seven-acre roof. But even the less gigantic museums can take their toll."

With more than four million visitors a year, first-aiders at the National Gallery in London see a greater variety of medical conditions than most. "People slip and hurt themselves and faint," said the National's John Macaulan.

At the V&A there are 22 first-aiders on the staff. Greg Benson, the museum's health and safety officer, said: "The majority of complaints are from visitors who have been on the road since 6am or who have skipped breakfast and feel unwell."

Tunnel may be closed to Irish loads

By AUDREY MAGEE

IRISH exports will be banned from the Channel tunnel next month if the Dublin Government does not introduce strict security regulations for cargo.

Britain is demanding that Ireland imposes a security check on exporters transporting goods on Channel tunnel trains. All Irish exports are currently checked in Liverpool but British agencies say they no longer want to bear the cost for work that should be done in Ireland.

Security on the tunnel has always been a fraught issue. According to exporters who regularly use the tunnel the British impose far stricter security than the French to protect against a terrorist attack.

Up to £1 billion of Irish manufactured goods are transported from Ireland to mainland Europe through the Channel tunnel. Two years ago, when the tunnel opened, an interim arrangement was set up to check Irish cargo. The Department of Transport appointed Rail Freight Distributors in Liverpool to check all Irish containers.

Now the company has had enough and says the system is too costly and time-consuming. It has told Irish transporters the service will stop on November 7, throwing Irish exporters into turmoil.

The Irish government has yet to decide who is responsible for the security. Various departments — justice, transport and marine — all say it has nothing to do with them. The Irish Exporters Association has accused the Government of "buck-passing" and putting at risk a growing sector of Ireland's £60 billion export industry.

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Committal evidence disclosed

Man acquitted of Nickell killing hits out at newspaper

By TIM JONES AND RICHARD FORD

COLIN STAGG, the man who was acquitted of murdering Rachel Nickell on Wimbledon Common, reacted with fury yesterday when a newspaper printed evidence which the trial judge had ruled inadmissible.

Mr Stagg, who is consulting lawyers over the article, pelted journalists with eggs and threw out a burnt copy of *The Mail on Sunday* before slamming his front door and declining to comment.

The evidence, which was not heard by the jury at the Old Bailey in September 1994, included statements given by an undercover policeman, known to him as Lizzie James. Mr Stagg, 33, is said to have given her details of how Rachel's body was placed on the ground — information which, it is claimed, had never been disclosed by detectives.

At the trial, Mr Justice Ognall ruled that the undercover evidence could not be heard and described it as "thoroughly reprehensible". Last night, Lord Denning, the former Master of the Rolls, said that, in his opinion, the newspaper was acting in contempt of court.

Miss Nickell, a part-time model, was murdered while walking on the common with her son, Alex, then three, in July 1992. Mr Stagg was charged with murder after an intensive inquiry. An 11-day hearing in front of magistrates decided that there was a case to answer. The evidence was not reported because of legal restrictions.

The magistrates heard evidence from one of Mr Stagg's

neighbours, Susan Gale, who said that she saw him on the common at 9.25am on the day of the murder. Mr Stagg said that he had been feeling ill, had cut short his walk and was home by 9.15. He told the police that he had been walking his dog between 8.15 and 8.30.

The Mail on Sunday asked: "Was Colin Stagg right, mistaken or lying about the time he took the walk on the common? Has he given a time so far removed from the real time of the murder because he knew exactly when the killing occurred?"

Magistrates had heard also that Mr Stagg told police he watched the television programme *Lucky Ladders* when he returned home. But police were satisfied that the programme had not been screened on that day.

Mr Stagg's wife, Diane, 28, said at the weekend: "Nobody wants the killer caught more than Colin. It would end all this, but we are just ordinary people who can't afford to fight back."

Everything in the paper was heard in the magistrates' court. There was no forensic evidence against him. He had tests on his hair, blood and saliva and there was nothing.

Scotland Yard said that its investigations into the murder would continue at least until next year. The Crown Prosecution Service said: "Mr Stagg was acquitted of the murder of Rachel Nickell and cannot be tried again for the same offence."

Neighbours on the Alton council estate in Roehampton,

southwest London, where the Staggs live, formed a barrier to prevent journalists from walking down a narrow balcony to his door. Some shouted abuse and children showered them with water from a third-floor balcony.

One neighbour, Lee Ashley, described Mr Stagg as a "lovely boy" who was being persecuted. "He wanted to take his dogs for a walk on the common but until you lot go away he won't come out. He is staying at home and playing with his computer game."

Mr Stagg's car was stolen from outside his home yesterday. Scotland Yard confirmed that it was investigating the theft of a blue Audi reported missing by Mrs Stagg.



Clarissa Lee arriving at church yesterday and as a girl, back right, with her aunt and cousins. She joined the Somerset choir when she was 16

Record book sings praises of oldest chorister

By BILL PROSS

THE world's oldest practising chorister was in fine voice when she celebrated her 104th birthday and a place in the record books yesterday. Clarissa Lee sang a selection of her favourite hymns before being feted at a church hall reception where she enjoyed half a glass of sweet sherry and a slice of fudges cake.

Mrs Lee, an alto, joined the choir of

St Mary and St Andrew's at Pitminster, Somerset, in 1908 when she was 16. Four months later, the former village postmistress has been recognised by the Guinness Book of Records as the oldest known chorister.

She said of her twice-weekly singing sessions: "I still enjoy it immensely, although my voice is not as good as it was. It's getting a bit rusty after all these years. I only started singing

because all the men had to go to fight in the Great War. I am the oldest in the choir by about 30 years but everyone is still very kind about my singing. I'm going to keep going as long as I can."

Mrs Lee was 14 when her family moved from London to Somerset, where she met and married a local man who died 30 years ago. The couple's son, Ernest, who is in his 70s, lives near his mother. At yesterday's

service Mrs Lee was invited to pick her favourite hymns. Among them were *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* and *Angel Voices Ever Singing*.

The Rev Robert Parker, the vicar, said: "She is a wonderful soul, she always turns up twice a week without fail. Her eyesight is going a little bit now but she knows all the hymns off by heart, so it doesn't really matter."

Letters, page 21

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Colin Stagg was cleared of murdering Rachel Nickell when evidence against him was ruled inadmissible

Draft of Wagner libretto found

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

WAGNER's long-lost working manuscript for the libretto of *Tannhäuser* has been found. Scholars will now be able to study a first draft they had known about only from a reference in an 1845 letter from the composer.

It is expected to fetch around £100,000 at Sotheby's on December 6. Stephen Roe, head of the book department and a specialist in musical manuscripts, said: "This is a major Wagner discovery, a missing link in the world's knowledge of the composer's work."

"Anything of importance is very rare. Most of the very major manuscripts are in libraries and public collections."

Fierce competition is expected. *Tannhäuser*, first performed in Dresden in

1845, has, like all Wagner's operas, a text by the composer. In early life, he had written plays and verse and hoped to be a dramatist. He later argued that drama, poetry, music and other art forms should be united in one *Gesamtkunstwerk*.

Dr Roe explained that the manuscript was last recorded as having been given by the composer as a new-year present to the Swiss conductor Wilhelm Baumgartner. Wagner, in a jokey dedication that accompanies the manuscript, urged: "Study the manuscript, otherwise you won't get to Heaven!"

The manuscript remained with descendants of Baumgartner, who had not realised that scholars had been searching for it.

It was in 1842 that Wagner put pen to paper for the opera — which he originally thought of calling *Der Venusberg*. It is a setting of the 13th-century myth of Tannhäuser, the knightly minstrel torn between sacred and profane love — tormented with lust for Venus, whose home was Venusberg, and spiritual passion for Elisabeth.

The manuscript, entitled *Der Venusberg. Romanische Oper in 3 Acten*, and in brown and black ink, is dated "Dresden 29 Jan 1843"; it is also dated at the end "Richard Wagner Dresden. 22 März 1843".

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Retiring chief constable believes terrorists accept there cannot be a military victory

RUC chief predicts IRA ceasefire after period of violence

By NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE IRA will declare another ceasefire because the republican leadership still sees the advantages of peace, according to Sir Hugh Annesley, Chief Constable of the RUC. He gave a warning, however, that the terrorists would attempt to launch further bomb attacks on mainland Britain and in Northern Ireland before laying down their arms.

In an interview with *The Times* to mark his retirement next month, Sir Hugh said that "sooner or later" the IRA would abandon its terrorist campaign. "I would certainly see it as coming potentially in the next year. I have no doubt the republican movement is deeply put out by the strong stance by the British and Irish Governments."

The IRA would, however, want to declare a truce from a position of strength. He said: "I think we are in a situation where further attacks on the British mainland are probable and I think an attack within the Province has moved from possible to probable." He had based his prediction on intelligence reports and his own judgment of the thinking of the republican leadership.

Sir Hugh, speaking at RUC

headquarters in East Belfast, said: "I believe that Messrs Adams and McGuinness still believe that the long-term solution to the problems we have here will be solved by politics and not by military force. I think it is widely accepted within the general democratic framework that there wasn't going to be a military victory on either side."

... I think still that Adams and McGuinness see the advantage in peace. Sir Hugh said that one sign of a move towards a ceasefire was the IRA's plan to hold a so-called "General Army Convention", which consists of "volunteers" from every unit and which is the only body within the IRA that can declare a permanent end to violence. He said that the leadership would use the meeting to decide on their strategy because the movement appeared to be unsure. He did not link Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness directly to the terrorists' Army Council, but he made it clear that they were the republican movement's pivotal figures.

Sir Hugh accompanied his assessment of the IRA with approval of loyalist terrorists

who have maintained their ceasefire in the face of renewed IRA terrorism. But he gave warning that they still posed a formidable terrorist threat, adding: "If they were pushed back into violence, and they have been very severely pushed up to now, then one would have to imagine immediate attacks on the Republic of Ireland and throughout Northern Ireland."

Sir Hugh spoke of his frustration at having to tackle terrorism with laws that were weighted too strongly in favour of the criminal. The lean of the criminal law is too far in favour of the terrorist. The Italians would not have made any inroads into the Mafia if they were operating with the law and order system of the United Kingdom.

He insisted a crackdown on terrorism must be within the normal process of criminal law. He dismissed the option of internment of terrorist suspects without trial as a "short-term palliative, but a long-term disaster". He said: "If you don't intern them you have got to say to yourself, how do you tackle terrorism and how do you get the evidence? Most people will not give evidence against terrorists because they are afraid, which means eye-witnesses will nearly always be policemen or soldiers."

He said that difficulties with forensic evidence, which terrorists knew how to challenge, and problems with confession evidence meant that other evidence ought to be allowed in court. He called for three major changes to the law: admit phone-tapping evidence in court; abolish the right to silence in Northern Ireland; lengthen the seven-day detention period for terrorist suspects.

The renewed IRA violence led him to reiterate the call he first made in 1992 for a national anti-terrorist unit. While praising the decision to give MI5 the lead in the fight against terrorism in mainland Britain, he added: "I believe

that we should take hold of this by the scruff of the neck. The head [of the new unit] should be an equivalent of a Grade 1 civil servant with direct access to the Prime Minister and the Home Secretary."

As he reflected on his seven years in Northern Ireland, Sir Hugh, who hands over to Ronnie Flanagan on November 4, said he would retain vivid memories of terrorist atrocities. He remembers the names of every RUC officer killed during his term. Despite the tragedies, he and his wife Elizabeth will retain fond memories of the warmth of people in Northern Ireland, from both sides of the sectarian divide, when they settle into retirement in England.

However much he may be looking forward to a more relaxed existence, Sir Hugh will always be reminded of his years in Northern Ireland by round-the-clock protection from IRA terrorists.



Sir Hugh Annesley has hung photographs of all ten RUC Chief Constables since the 1920s outside his office

Annesley urges 'affirmative action' over lack of Catholics

POSITIVE action will have to be taken to increase the number of Roman Catholics in the RUC if the force fails to recruit more. Sir Hugh Annesley said. The force could not police Northern Ireland for ever when only 8 per cent of its officers were Catholics.

The Chief Constable said: "You cannot continue to police forever a community which is 52 per cent Protestant and 48 per cent Catholic with 8 per cent Catholics. It is simply not viable. ... You are more likely to police by consent if the police service is representative of the community whose consent it is seeking."

Sir Hugh said he knew that his comments might "rub

people up the wrong way", but he expected his successor, Ronnie Flanagan, to look vigorously at the number of Catholics in the force. "If the position cannot be addressed then some form of affirmative action pursuant to the law may have to be taken in the long term."

Setting quotas would not be the answer, Sir Hugh said. Instead, government ministers and politicians would have to think of using existing laws, or changing the law, to introduce affirmative action.

Despite his comments, Sir Hugh rejected any suggestion that the RUC was unacceptable to nationalists. He conceded that the small number of Catholics led to difficulties in tackling terrorism,

but added: "The community across the board is very responsive to the investigation of a whole series of other offences such as sexual crimes and robberies."

The small number of Catholics in the RUC is consistently used by Sinn Féin to claim that the force is sectarian and biased against nationalists. However, the RUC insists that it has gone out of its way to attract Catholics and says that the greatest barrier on Catholics joining the force has been intimidation by the IRA.

During the IRA ceasefire there was a 20 per cent increase in the number of Catholic applicants to join the force. There are fears that this will now tail off.

Daly recalls night when violence hit home

By AUDREY MAGEE

CARDINAL Cahal Daly, who is retiring as Roman Catholic Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, has disclosed that when he was a child, his home was burnt down by the IRA.

It is the first public indication that Dr Daly personally suffered at the hands of the IRA. The public impression of his childhood had previously been of Protestants and Catholics living happily side by side in the countryside.

On Irish television last night, Cardinal Daly, who is being succeeded by Archbishop Sean Brady, said his first memory was, as a four-year-old, of being cradled in his father's arms 75 years ago and watching flames shooting through the roof of their Co Antrim home. His parents lost everything they owned. Dr Daly said.

"Our house was burned as part of the IRA activity at the time and we were burned because next door, in a semi-detached, there was a detachment of [police] auxiliaries, and the local IRA planned to burn them out. To do that they had to burn us out too. So my father and mother lost all their possessions."

Cardinal Daly, who is considered an intellectual, condemned the IRA from the outset of the Troubles. He likened much of the IRA violence to the "seamy blood feuds of Cosa Nostra". In a book published in 1983, he wrote that the "continuance of political violence, with the evil inherent in it and the evil stemming from it, constitutes the greatest danger to Catholicism in this century."

Many see him as the only Catholic primate who has had insight into the fears of Protestants in Northern Ireland and has tried to reach out to them. The result was that many staunch nationalists saw him as having "sold out".

But Dr Daly rejects the claim that he was pro-British and the accusation that his predecessor, the late Cardinal Tomás Ó Fiaich, was sympathetic to republicanism — the "Provo cardinal", as he was dubbed. Dr Daly told the RTE *Would You Believe* religious programme that both descriptions were "total caricatures".

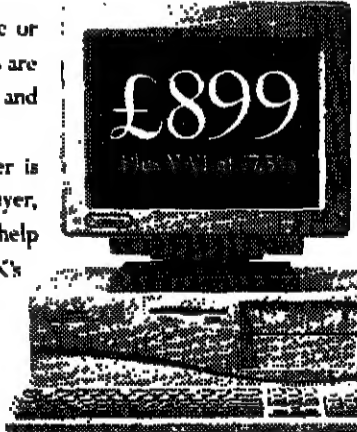


Sir Hugh in 1989, his first year in office, speaking to a Sinn Féin councillor on the Falls Road in Belfast

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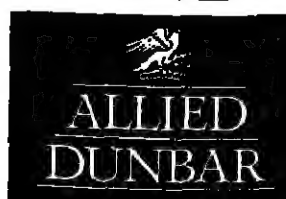
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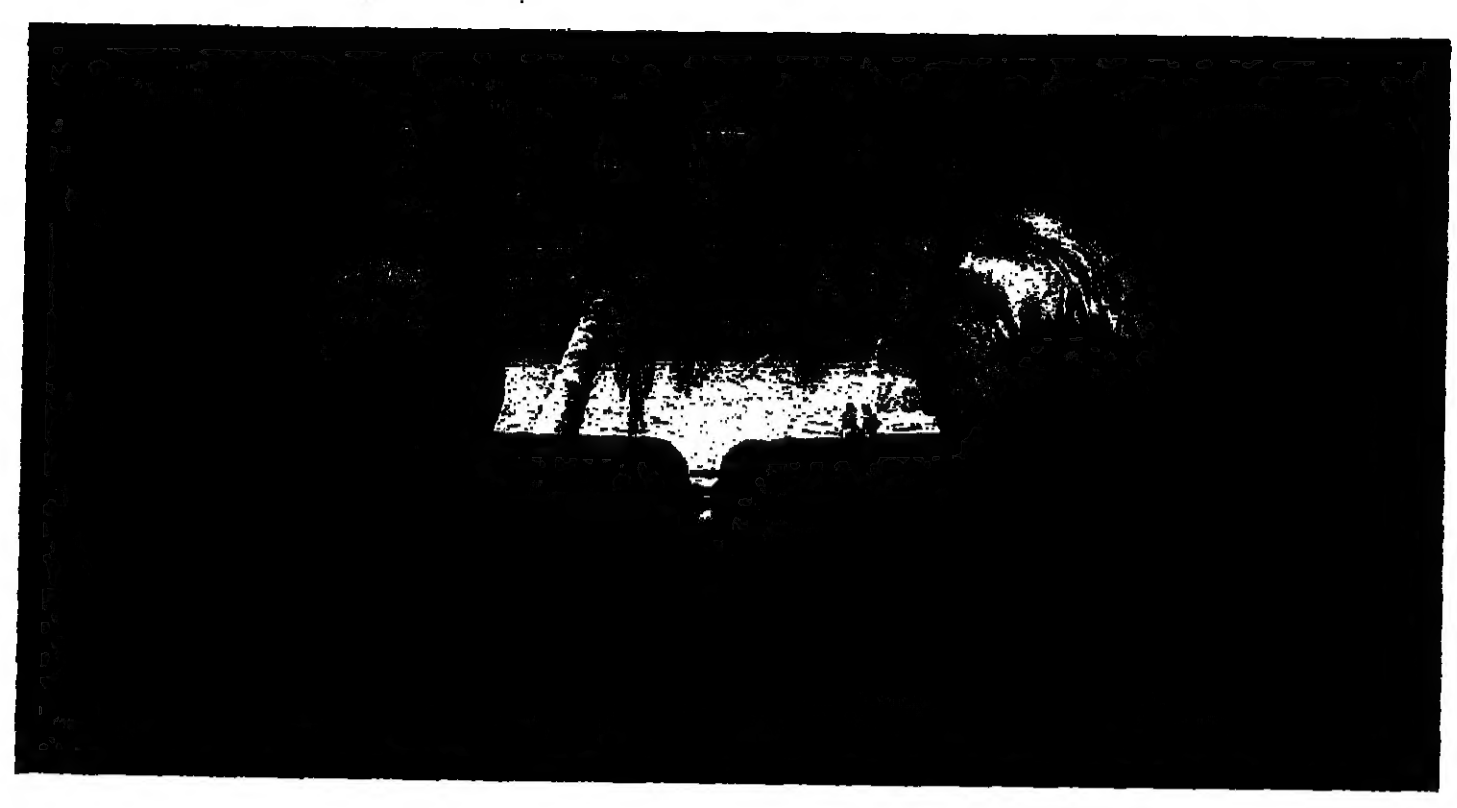
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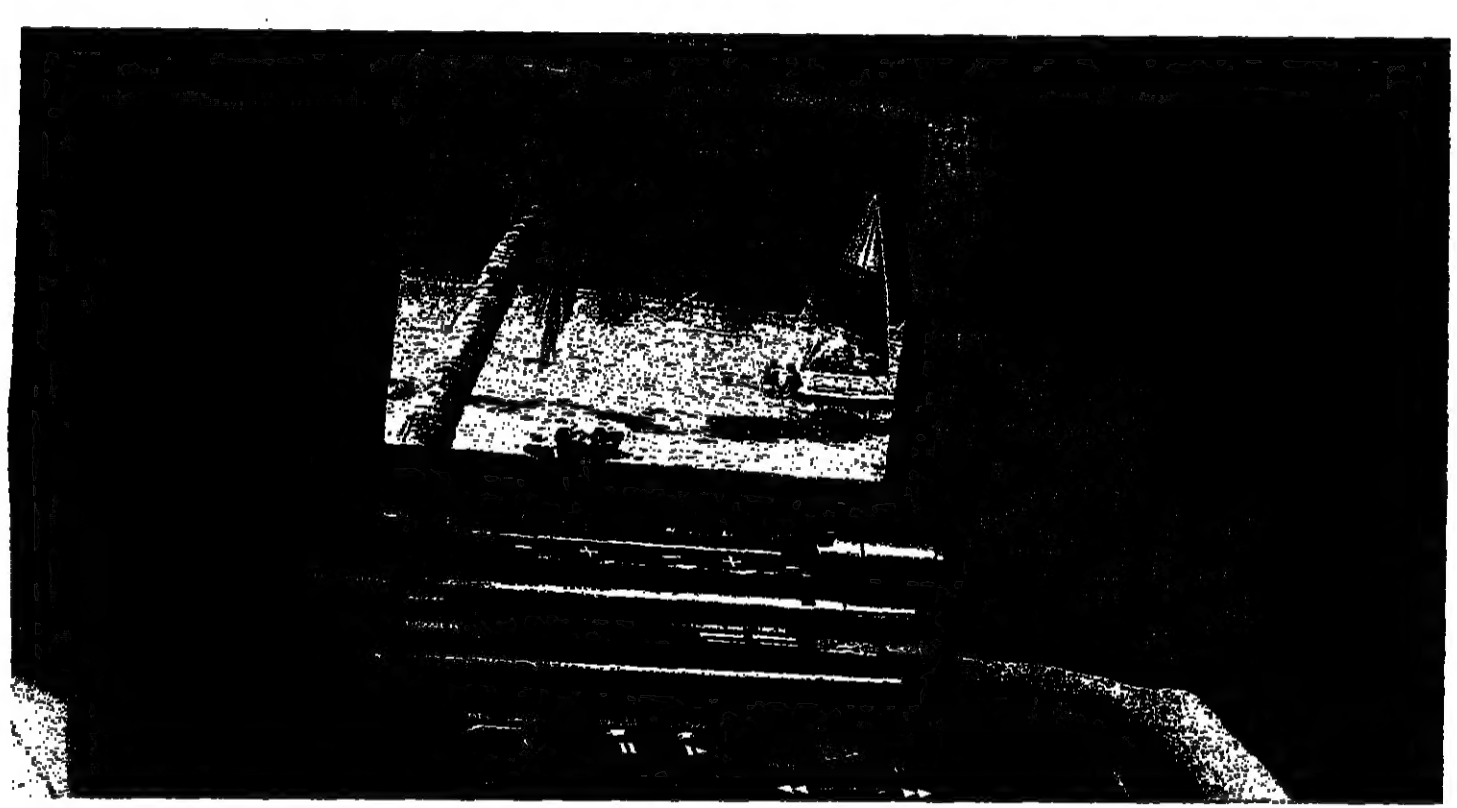
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Recruitment drive hinges on rallies, regional offices and a night in with a video

Goldsmith pushes for membership of 400,000

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

SIR James Goldsmith, buoyed by the success of the first Referendum Party conference, is planning a series of public rallies to try to increase membership eightfold to 400,000 by the general election.

He is opening ten regional offices in the next month. The party has recruited 60 constituency agents and a team of press officers, some of whom worked at Conservative Central Office during the last general election campaign.

Their targets are Tory voters. The majority of the 4,200

representatives at the conference in Brighton on Saturday were lifelong Tories. A sizeable number were former councillors and officers of Conservative Associations.

A central part of the recruitment drive will be a 20-minute video, attacking German-led moves towards political and monetary union, in which Baroness Thatcher has agreed to be included.

Free copies will be sent to the party's 50,000 members. It is also considering paying for the film to be shown as a commercial in cinemas.

The advertising offensive, which has been used successfully in the past by the Tories, would cost at least £1 million. Sir James has pledged to match the Tories' general election spending pound for pound. A senior Tory MP said last night: "We are going to have to start taking the threat from this man seriously."

Members will be encouraged to hold Tupperware-style parties in their homes, with the video as the selling point. A Referendum Party spokesman said: "We want to increase membership by encouraging members to invite their friends round to watch the video. They can see for

themselves. We hope it will lead to a massive increase in grassroots support."

A shortened version of the film, set to the theme music of the Oscar-winning film *The Mission*, was played at the conference hall. It comprised extracts of speeches and statements by leading players in the Europe debate.

Lady Thatcher gave her unofficial blessing to the conference by agreeing to be featured in the video. Her cameo role at the end was shot in 1993, when she welcomed the Danish referendum on Maastricht. "At least they had a referendum. I look forward to us having one," she said.

Her comments were cheered to the rafters.

Many of Lady Thatcher's closest friends, such as Sir Alan Walters, Lord McAlpine of West Green and Lady Powell were at the conference. Lady Thatcher spoke to Sir James about preparations for the conference three weeks ago and their offices are in regular contact.

A member of the Thatcher camp said: "She was at the conference in spirit, even though she was not there in person. Of course she would have liked to have been there. Look around you. All you can see are her people."

The party is opening new

offices in Henley-on-Thames, Cardiff, Norwich, York, Edinburgh, Staffordshire, Lincolnshire and Lancashire. The first rally will be in the West Country, followed by Goldsmith speeches in Birmingham, Scotland and Wales.

Judith Clemenson, 48, who is standing against Virginia Bottomley, was given a rousing ovation when she said that, on Remembrance Day, the nation would remember people who had died to preserve British sovereignty. "It was worth fighting for then; it is worth fighting for now."

Mrs Clemenson, a Tory party member for 20 years, worked on successive election

campaigns in Portsmouth North. "My husband and I are Mr and Mrs Average," she said. "Margaret Thatcher was my heroine."

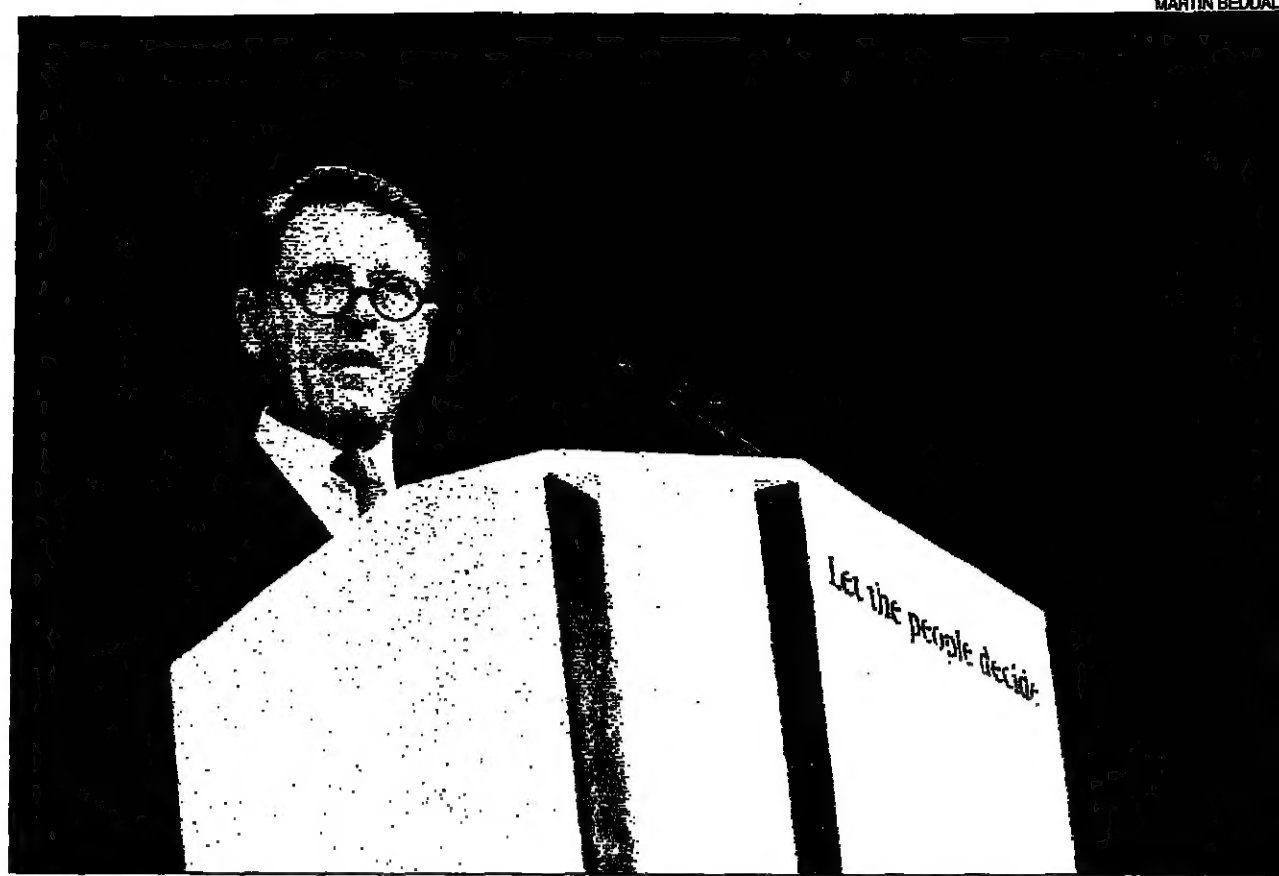
"I feel let down by John Major. It does not matter who gets in at the next election. Just for once, people have got to stop being die-hard Tories or staunch Labour. They have got to put the nation first and vote for a referendum."

A majority of Swedes want a referendum on whether Sweden should join Europe's economic and monetary union, according to a poll published yesterday.

Leading article, page 21



Sir James: his first rally will be in West Country



The actor Edward Fox addressing Saturday's conference. The event was attended by 4,200 representatives

No expense spared as the rabble army marches on its stomach

By Andrew Pierce

IT WAS more of a banquet than a political party as Sir James Goldsmith performed a modern-day version of feeding the 5,000 at Brighton. No expense was spared and the bill for the one-day conference was expected to exceed £750,000.

"It was the biggest free lunch since the loaves and the fishes," said one Goldsmith official. Every one of the 4,200 representatives was given packets of sandwiches, crisps,

biscuits and unlimited cups of tea and coffee. Three lavish parties were held on Friday night.

But the billionaire Sir James went to great lengths to ensure that they were not interrupted by uninvited guests. He took over the five-star Grand Hotel and the nearby Thistle Hotel, at a cost of more than £100,000, to ensure that there were no gatecrashers.

He hosted a buffet supper for 1,000 at the Empress Suite in the Grand Hotel for candidates and their partners, costing close to

£20,000. Peter de Savary, Edward Fox and John Aspinall made brief appearances.

An even more lavish affair was under way at the same time at the Thistle Hotel on the seafront. Lord McAlpine of West Green hosted a drinks party for 200 journalists. When the wine ran out, two hours later, the feast began.

The menu went on and on. Crowds of melon, grapefruit, sirloin spare ribs, cold salmon, smoked trout, Singapore rice noodles, shellfish, sweet and sour pork, satay chicken

with a choice of five salads. The dessert was mango chocolate mousse or Black Forest gâteau. Staff served about 350 bottles of Monton Grandet 1995, a French wine made by Australians.

Lady Powell, wife of Baroness Thatcher's former foreign policy adviser Sir Charles Powell, was also entertaining at the Grand Hotel. A table of 30 guests, including Alan Clark, the former Defence Minister, and Frederick Forsyth, the author, tucked into foie gras, tortellini, baked turbot with coriander

and ginger and a "panache" of autumn vegetables.

The generous hospitality continued the following day. The press corps of 200 was given unlimited free food and drink. One of the society girls working for Sir James, in regulation black dress, said: "The Rabble Army was not only in the conference hall. We wanted the rabble army in the press room to be kept fighting fit."

It is just as well that Sir James is reputed to be one of the world's richest men.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Dublin man charged over reporter's death

Irish police are optimistic that they will find the people who killed Veronica Guerin, the Dublin journalist, after charging a man with conspiracy to murder. Paul Ward, of Dublin, appeared at a special sitting of the city's district court on Friday night where he was charged with conspiracy to murder Ms Guerin and harbouring others involved. He was also charged with possessing cannabis. Mr Ward, 32, was remanded in custody until Thursday. The charge is the first in the four-month inquiry.

Concrete block victim critical

Simon Willmott, the motorist whose chest was crushed when a concrete block was dropped on his car from a bridge over the M3 at Hook, Hampshire, was critical but stable in hospital. A 16-year-old questioned after the incident on Friday has been released on bail.

Gascoigne 'turns to therapist'

Paul Gascoigne is reported to have turned to the "celebrity therapist" Beechy Coleclough in an attempt to curb his drinking. The footballer is said to have contacted Mr Coleclough — whose clients have included Michael Jackson and Elton John — after an alleged attack on his wife Sheryl.

'Invisible' warship revealed

The British design for a "stealth" warship, which can disappear in a cloud of fine mist from special water jets in the superstructure, will be unveiled at an exhibition in Paris today. The concept for an invisible corvette that can change its radar profile has been devised by Vosper Thornycroft.

Boy, 5, electrocuted on rail line

A five-year-old boy was killed when he fell on to the live line while playing with friends on a railway track in Merseyside. Andrew Hall, of Birkenhead, is thought to have slipped on a wet rail and was electrocuted. British Transport Police said that an investigation was being held into the death.

Search for tour company owners

Trading officials were trying to trace Colin and Carol Battson, owners of the holiday firm Luxurious Florida of Clacton, Essex. At least 15 British owners of villas in Florida claim they are owed up to £15,000 by the company and holidaymakers who paid up to £800 each have nowhere to stay.

Shelter has busiest year

Shelter is busier than at any time during its 30-year history, according to the housing charity's annual report. It dealt with more than 100,000 cases last year — a third more than the previous year, even though government figures show homelessness has fallen by more than a third since 1991.

Children left alone escape blaze

Three children were taken to hospital after they escaped a fire in a house in which they had been left alone. Social services are investigating how a boy, 10, his sister, 13, and another girl aged 13 came to be on their own in the house in Southampton. They were treated for smoke inhalation.

Vow of silence for millennium

A Conservative MP has suggested the millennium should be celebrated in silence. John Butcher (Coventry South-West) has called for television and radio to be switched off for five days from midnight on December 31, 1999, one for each thousand of the 5,000 years of known civilisation in Britain.

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Fiszmann: £1.5m ransom was left in car park

Tycoon's body is discovered

FROM ROGER BOYES
IN BONN

THE body of one of Germany's wealthiest men, the property dealer Jakob Fiszmann, was discovered at the weekend by the police, ending a week of search.

Herr Fiszmann was kidnapped in Frankfurt by a gang on October 1 and a ransom of more than £1.5 million was demanded from the family. The cash was left in a car park, but Herr Fiszmann, 40, was not freed.

The police were alerted, partly because Herr Fiszmann suffered from a food allergy and needed to take regular medication; even if the kidnappers did not intend to kill him, his life was in danger because of his medical condition.

Two people are in custody, including a woman who worked for years in the businessman's company. Apparently guided by the confessions of one suspect, the police unearthed the ransom money, but the millionaire could not be found.

On Saturday, helped by sniffer dogs, the police found the body in the Taunus forest outside Frankfurt. It was hidden under a mound of leaves. The police suspect that he was killed because at the time of the attack he ripped off one of the kidnappers' masks and recognised the assailant.

Whatever the reason, the police seemed sure that the gang were Germans and not, as was at first suspected, Russian or Polish.

Dehaene promises parents a bureau to find missing children

Thousands in Belgian rally back victims of sex abuse

FROM LEYLA LINTON IN BRUSSELS

AS HUNDREDS of thousands of people carrying white flowers and balloons marched through Brussels in remembrance of missing children yesterday, the Belgian Prime Minister and the families of the alleged victims of Marc Dutroux clashed publicly.

The families said on television that Jean-Luc Dehaene had told them he hoped the march would mark the end of public outrage over the child sex scandal. They said it was only the beginning of their campaign.

Marie-Noëlle Bouzet, mother of missing Elisabeth Brichet, instigated the march and said Mr Dehaene had made a serious political error by trying to "take it over".

Mr Dehaene was visibly rattled by the accusations, which he described as scandalous. He met the families and emerged from three hours of talks last night to announce a package of legal measures, including one ensuring greater rights for victims.

He promised that their voice would be heard, and that contact would be made with the Centre for Missing Children in Washington with a view to setting up a similar institution in Belgium. It would be independent of the judiciary and the police. The families said that they were pleased with the talks. Jean-Denis Lejeune, father of Julie, one of the girls found stabbed to death in a house owned by Mr Dutroux, added: "It doesn't keep his word, he will have to face the consequences."

The families then rejoined the march which, at its height, was two miles long. Belgians from all over the country converged on the capital to

show their support for them and to leave flowers under posters of the missing and dead children. Many were white to symbolise innocence and non-violence.

Organisers put the number of marchers at more than 325,000. The atmosphere was good-humoured, but dozens of policemen had to form a security ring to prevent cheering supporters from mobbing the victims' families. The families could hardly move as the crowds surrounded them chanting "Bravo, bravo."

One boy squeezed through the police line to shake hands with Gino Russo, the father of Melissa, who was found dead with Julie.

The wishes of the families were largely respected by the marchers. For it was a time for parents and their children rather than a political demonstration. The march was mostly dignified and calm with no slogans and no banners.

However, some protesters left the designated route to demonstrate outside the Palais de Justice and vent their anger over the dismissal last week of the judicial investigator in the Dutroux case.

Jean-Marc Connerotte's aggressive approach to the case and his arrest of Mr Dutroux had turned him into a national hero. But the Supreme Court ruled he had compromised his impartiality by attending a spaghetti dinner in support of an organisation for missing children.

His removal sparked a week of demonstrations and wildcat strikes by thousands of public workers, and last night the protesters outside the Palais de Justice vowed their demonstrations would continue.



A tide of protesters carrying white flowers or balloons, led by parents and relatives of missing or dead children, flows silently through the centre of Brussels yesterday

Communist set to beat far Right in French poll

FROM SUSAN BELL IN MARSEILLES

A COMMUNIST candidate campaigning against the Maastricht treaty was tipped to beat the extreme-right National Front yesterday in a by-election in Gardanne, near Marseilles, the former power base of bankrupt soccer tycoon Bernard Tapie.

Political analysts said Roger Mei, Gardanne's Communist Mayor, would beat Damien Barrière of the National Front yesterday after M. Mei won 37.8 per cent of votes against M. Barrière's 26.8 per cent in the first round on October 13, when the candidates of the mainstream parties — the ruling centre-right majority and the Socialist Party — were eliminated.

The by-election was declared after M. Tapie, former manager of the Olympique Marseilles football team, was forced to resign his seat after losing appeals against a fraud conviction and bankruptcy.

His resignation left the mainstream parties confronting the problem of how to prevent the seat falling to the National Front, giving it its first seat in the present parliament. The extreme Right enjoyed increasing support in

Marseilles, which has a large immigrant community with a radical tradition and a well-founded reputation for militancy. Fears of unemployment and immigration concerns run high in Gardanne and were key campaign issues.

Another major concern for voters was the possible loss of 1,200 jobs due to the threatened closure of the local coalmine in 2005. While campaigning, M. Mei reminded them that in Chinese his name means "coal".

M. Barrière campaigned on issues of insecurity and immigration, exploiting the recent, apparently motiveless murder of a white teenager in Marseilles by an adolescent of North African origin. He was supported by Bruno Mégret, first lieutenant of the National Front leader, Jean-Marie Le Pen.

However, in spite of M. Barrière's attempt to catch up with the Communist candidate by appealing to the centre-right majority vote, analysis agreed yesterday that his only chance of winning was to mobilise in his favour the 58 per cent of voters who abstained in the first round.

Prado's Rembrandt con artist owns up

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

THE mystery artist who smuggled one of his paintings into the Prado museum, impudently hanging it alongside works by Rembrandt, identified himself yesterday.

Victor Ruiz Roizo, a former bank clerk from Madrid, told *El País* that he chose the Rembrandt room because there was space to place his painting. "I would really have liked to hang my work next to a Goya, my favourite painter, but that was too risky."

Señor Ruiz said he spent two weeks trying to find a frame for his painting, *El Después* (The Afterwards),

that would blend in with the gilt frames of his chosen stretch of Prado wall. "I had to smuggle in several samples in order to make discreet comparisons."

Then he had to wait until the room was empty before darting over to the wall and smearing it thickly with strong glue and slapping his painting on to the adhesive surface just before a crowd of Japanese tourists entered.

The Prado staff are due to report soon on the security lapses that led to the incident and senior managers are likely to be forced to resign.

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Typical example: Personal Choice Repayment Mortgage. Monthly repayments of Capital and Interest for mortgage of £40,000 over 25 years. Assuming the rate at 6.99% (7.3% APR) 300 net payments of £265.44 (MIRAS calculated under current tax legislation and may alter) total net amount payable £79,632. (This example includes valuation fee of £100, Solicitor's fees of £222 and £500 Higher Loan to Value Access Fee.) Valuation fee refunded on drawdown of mortgage. All lending is subject to appraisal by the Bank of the applicant's financial status and valuation of the property. Full details and a written consumer credit of STANDARD LIFE, which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority, for life assurance, pensions and unit trust business. Rates correct at time of printing but subject to variation. Telephone calls may be recorded for security purposes and may be monitored under the Bank's quality control procedures.

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Tributes from the south add to King Kohl's money worries

Southerners have been going north to pay their respects at the court of King Kohl. Last week both José María Aznar, the Spanish Prime Minister, and his Italian counterpart, Professor Romano Prodi, were entertained at home by the German Chancellor.

The cool and fastidious Señor Aznar did not like the dark beer served near Herr Kohl's home town in the Rhineland, but otherwise the ritual of eating a gargantuan meal with Herr Kohl laid to rest any fear that German-Spanish relations might cool



with the fall from power in Madrid of Herr Kohl's favourite man from the Club Med, Felipe González. Signor Prodi had to be content with a

working dinner in Bonn and Herr Kohl said nothing on the vexed subject of Italy's qualifications to join either the exchange-rate mechanism or the single currency.

Signor Prodi and Señor Aznar are desperate to join the currency club. Thanks to the procedures laid down for the birth of the euro, Germany confronts a paradox. By fusing the mark with schillings, francs and guilders, Germany is supposed to be reassuring its neighbours that it can never again be powerful enough to be dangerous. But Germany's lead-

ers can only persuade their voters to surrender the mark if Germany is seen to be setting the rules to ensure that the currency works. Not all members of the EU are finding this terribly reassuring.

German movers and shakers spend more time worrying about Italy than about any other potential snag. Italy is the only one of the EU's six founding states in danger of being blocked from joining the euro because its economy cannot pass the tests. Yet Germany is scared of being held responsible for

splitting the EU and leaving the faithfully federalist founding state which played host to the Treaty of Rome on the outside.

Herr Kohl faces a choice between evils. Germany can encourage rule-bending which allows Italy and Spain to join the euro and give the whole scheme political momentum — but only at the risk that financial markets punish the currency for being politically managed and weak. Or Germany can opt for a tight circle of countries already in

the informal "deutschmark zone" but face political troubles. Dividing the EU into blocs might destroy the single market. Faced with rejection by the north and the prospect of losing some of their subsidies to Central Europe, Italy and Spain might block the enlargement of the EU to the east.

Could Italy and Spain be promised entry two years after the 1999 start of the currency as long as they behaved well? This idea does not go down well with the men designated to run the European Central Bank, who

would like to be unfettered by political obligations.

The key issue is not so much whether states meet all the tests next year — even the Bundesbank is prepared to be flexible — but how committed countries are to keeping public expenditure under control for good. One huge, never-to-be-repeated message of the figures, known in financial markets as a "Big Bang Fudge", would be feasible, but only if iron discipline followed.

Hans Tietmeyer of the Bundesbank pointed out last

week that, since the the EU has no common political will, it has to have binding rules of economic behaviour to manage the euro. A couple of days later Carlo Ciampi, the Italian Finance Minister, contradicted him: rules with "rigid numerical criteria would be dangerous", he said.

To underline the political gulf that still remains to be crossed, EU ministers announced on the same day that they had spent five years failing to agree on a single European electric plug.

GEORGE BROCK

Doubts raised over skills of Yeltsin's tame security chief

By RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW AND MICHAEL EVANS

PRESIDENT Yeltsin sought to calm the turmoil within his administration at the weekend when he appointed a tame Kremlin insider to take over Aleksandr Lebed's duties as security chief and Chechnya troubleshooter.

Ivan Rybkin, the former Speaker of parliament and a trusted Yeltsin loyalist, was given the post on Saturday during a brief meeting with the Russian leader at his sanatorium outside Moscow.

Although Mr Rybkin is guaranteed not to create political waves, unlike his ambitious predecessor, there were concerns that he may not be able to carry out key aspects of his job, particularly keeping the peace in Chechnya.

After his appointment, the new secretary of the Security Council said he would do his job "in a businesslike manner, without fuss or noise", a reference to the outspoken General Lebed, who retorted that Mr Rybkin was a lightweight apparatchik whose only concern was pleasing his masters.

Viktor Ilyushin, the chairman of the parliamentary security committee, echoed the view that the post could be compromised because of Mr Rybkin's "personal loyalty" to the President.

The secretary of the Security Council must know how to defend his own ideas and positions, based on the country's interests," said the Communist deputy. "Unfortunately Mr Rybkin has never done so before."

The newcomer's main test will be in Chechnya. He said at the weekend that he was a "convicted supporter" of the peace deal and Akhmed Zakayev, the security chief of the Chechen rebel government, said they were prepared to give him the benefit of the doubt.

"We are ready for co-operation and close working contacts with Ivan Rybkin and any Russian official sincerely interested in the re-establishment of peace in the region," he said.

Nevertheless, there were real doubts that in the face of a

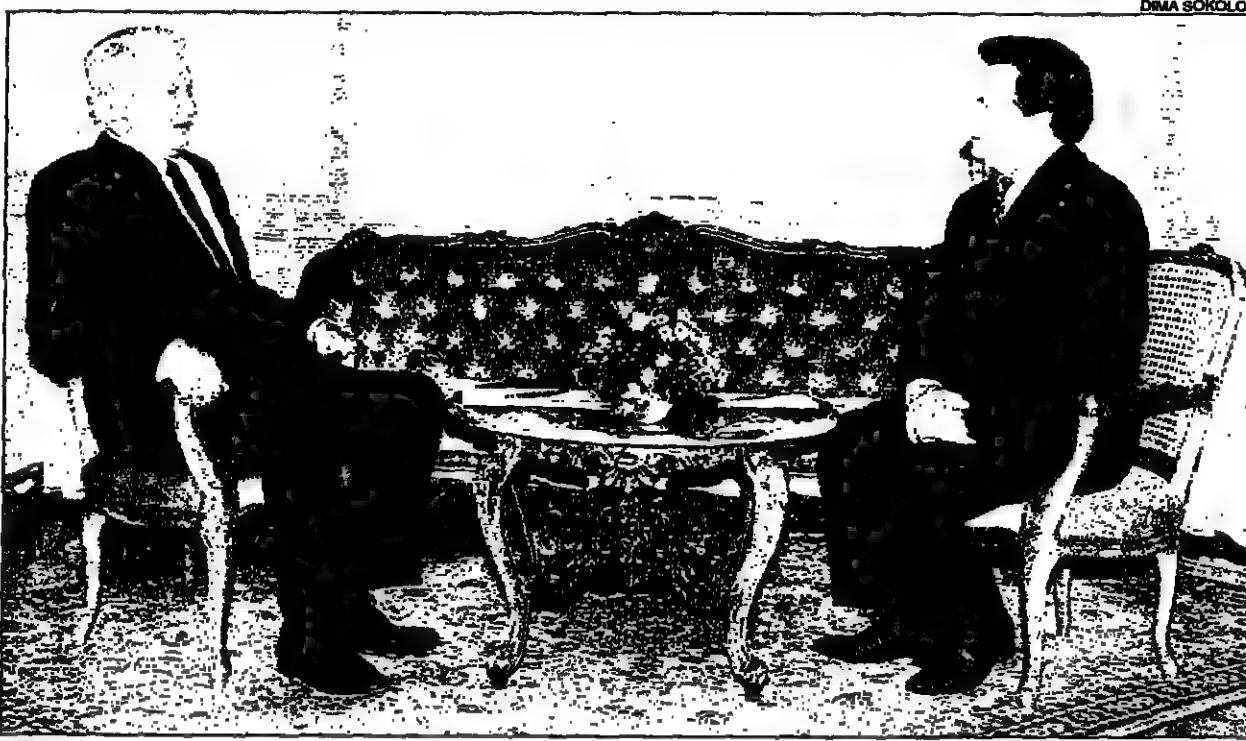
crisis between the two sides Mr Rybkin had the ability, or the will, to undertake the tough shuttle diplomacy which General Lebed used to clinch the deal.

There are also fears that he lacks the experience with the country's armed forces to tackle growing demoralisation and threats of mutiny, which have increased with the sacking of General Lebed.

The army has begun an unprecedented nationwide campaign to win support for its demands for better housing conditions and immediate payment of wage arrears, amounting to millions of roubles.

General Lebed spoke out passionately for the army and gave a warning of a potential mutiny this winter, but succeeded only in making enemies in the Kremlin.

Mr Rybkin, with his strong parliamentary background and image as a more diplomatic figure, could win valuable support if he is able to persuade the Duma to tackle the army crisis.



President Yeltsin meets his newly appointed security chief, Ivan Rybkin, in Barvikha, near Moscow, yesterday

Mother says she killed daughter, 3

By ADAM SAGE

A MOTHER who shocked France when she told how her three-year-old daughter had been molested and murdered has confessed that she was the killer.

Françoise Moreno, 24, admitted that she had killed her child after a 20-hour police interrogation in Montpellier. Her confession on Saturday provoked horror across the country a week after she had been portrayed as a grieving mother whose daughter, Rose-Marie, had fallen victim to an increasingly violent society.

In her original statement to police, she said Rose-Marie had gone missing when she went to buy sweets. Police suspicions rose when the shopkeeper said she had not been to the shop.

No sex s'il vous plaît, we're French

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

SEX has gone out of fashion in France with the generation that sought free love in the 1960s turning prudish as it enters middle age, a new opinion poll has found.

The survey of Gallic attitudes towards advertising, for the prestigious School of Commerce in Paris, showed that the French were offended by some advertisements on billboards and television, and want less nudity, less love-making and more old-fashioned romance.

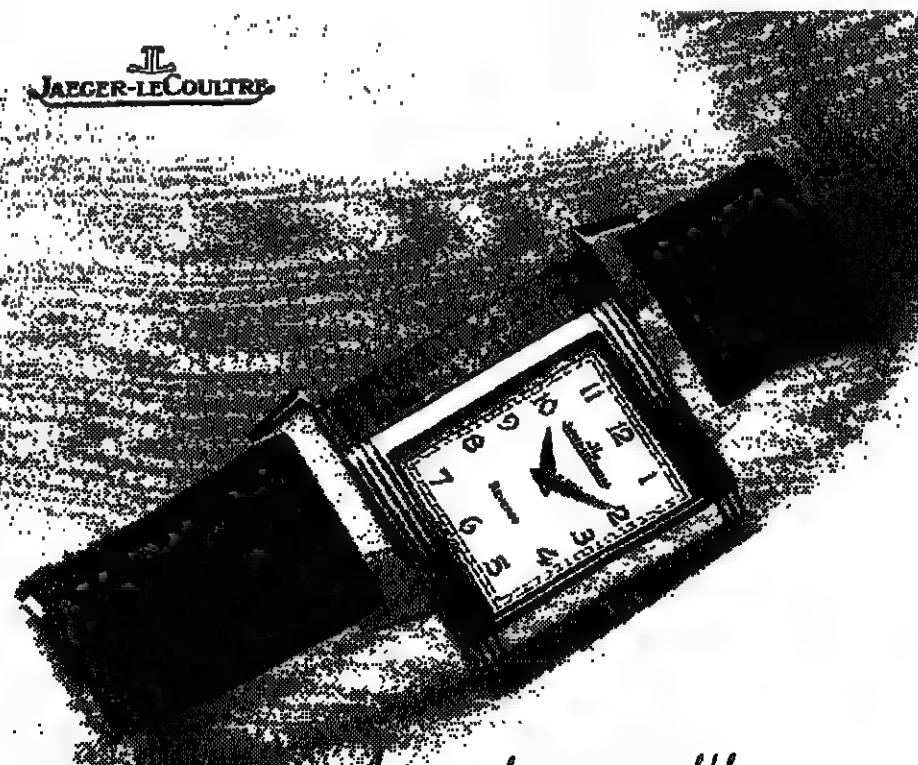
Hailed, or condemned, as

the birthplace of the sexual revolution 30 years ago, France is still the target for some of the crudest marketing in the world. One home shopping firm, for instance, has posters showing a cactus as phallic symbol next to female thighs. "Tomorrow will be feminine" is the ambiguous message.

Ten years ago the French saw such advertising as testimony to their lack of inhibitions. Today they find them shocking. A majority of those questioned opposed the use of

sex in advertising, with all age groups, including those aged 15-25, saying such campaigns were distasteful.

Nudity was also denounced, even when intended to be artistic rather than sexual. Although the under-30s were generally tolerant of naked flesh, their elders — who seem to have forgotten their slogan of the May 1968 uprising: "It is forbidden to forbid" — are now critical of the undressed models that can be found throughout French advertising.



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TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE	£1,630.50	£1,630.50
MONTHLY REPAYMENT	£1,164.50	£1,164.50
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'Soccer moms' set to reward Clinton with winning goal

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN ST LOUIS

LATE on a chilly autumn afternoon in suburban St Louis, half a dozen women sit huddled on metal benches watching their teenage daughters play a soccer match.

The team from Fontbonne slots three goals past Blackburn College, and the political division among these mothers is almost as one-sided. Four are determined to vote for President Clinton while two are still deciding. That, in a nutshell, is why the President is cruising towards re-election two weeks from tomorrow.

He and Bob Dole divide the male vote almost equally, but Mr Clinton leads by 30 to 30 points among women. It is more of a gender canyon than a gender gap, and he has achieved it by appealing directly to "soccer moms" —

white suburban mothers who daily juggle the conflicting demands of work and family. They "will decide the election", says Alex Castellanos, Mr Dole's media consultant.

These particular "soccer moms" include a teacher, a nurse, a security firm employee and a police clerk. They work because they need a second income and have all rushed to the game from their jobs. "Four kids, a job, a husband and never enough hours in the day," complained Vickie Horan, summing up their common plight.

The women instinctively feel that Mr Dole, 73, with one middle-aged daughter, does not understand their needs. They consider the Republican

Congress harsh, especially over social programmes and abortion, and they admire Hillary Clinton. They are not conscious of being targeted but targeted they have been, systematically and continually, by a President who quickly realised the political opportunities they presented.

Mr Clinton offers parents a legal right to take time off work to attend their children's needs. He promises tax breaks for school fees, curbs on cigarette advertising, and V-chips in televisions so absent parents can control their children's viewing. With great fanfare he recently signed a Bill letting new mothers spend another 24 hours in hospital.

August's Democratic convention was one long tribute to "soccer moms". More than 50 women spoke, and the Clintons flaunted Chelsea at every opportunity.

Democrats have always enjoyed the support of black and poorer women, but a recent *Wall Street Journal* poll showed Mr Clinton now enjoying a two-to-one advantage among middle-class suburban ones, too. To understand how disastrous those figures are for Mr Dole, one needs only to look at Missouri, a demographic microcosm of America, where presidential races are commonly decided in the predominantly white middle-class suburbs of St Louis.

Ken Warren, a St Louis University pollster, says Republican candidates need to win at least 55 per cent of the vote in those suburbs to carry Missouri. His figures show that thanks to the enormous gender gap — and a booming economy — Mr Clinton is actually winning there.

That translates into a double-digit lead for him in Missouri as a whole, and Mr Dole has virtually conceded America's ultimate bellwether state: Missouri has backed the winner in every presidential election this century save 1956.

Taleban puts boys in 'stocks' for theft of scrap

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN KABUL

JAWAD, 13, stands on a chair in the middle of one of Kabul's main roads, balancing a heavy chunk of waste metal on one shoulder. His legs shaking with fatigue. Hours tick by in this modern-day version of the stocks. Hundreds of people silently stare. Tears cut through his soot-blackened face and children chant "thief".

This was medieval Afghanistan yesterday. It explains why Kabul hates the Taleban rulers, an uneducated, rural people with no knowledge of city life and a repugnance for its comparatively liberal ways. Jawad had stolen a few pieces of worthless scrap metal — in a city that is a giant scrapyard from 17 years of war.

A youth a few years older, apparently mute, stood on another chair beside him, holding a large iron drawer from a discarded filing cabinet. He had stolen it. He did not cry, but whenever somebody said something to him he pointed to his mouth and made a gagging sound. Every ten or 15 minutes he shunted the heavy object to the other shoulder. He rubbed one swollen eye, trying to remove some gritty soot.

A bus pulled up alongside the youths and its passengers craned to see. Both boys stared at the ground. People seemed as disgusted by the abuse as they were fascinated by it. "Talebs are primitive," a man whispered. "They have taken us back centuries."

Mullah Malang, 22, who devised the punishment, is angry with the boy who will not speak. "He is pretending to be mute," he said. He screamed something abusive at the youths in Pashto and Jawad wept loudly. "Do not cry or you will be punished," the mullah said. The wooden



A Taleban fighter surveys shelling by forces of the ousted Government yesterday

chairs creaked as the boys shuffled their aching feet. The stolen goods lay in the road between the boys: the remains of a bicycle, a holed bucket, and some twisted

people what will happen to them if they steal. The scrap was deemed to be Taleban-owned because it came from the grounds of one of the many old bombed-out pal-

both hands amputated. After four hours the boys stood down unsteadily and hurried away.

Meanwhile, the battle for Afghanistan moved closer to Kabul yesterday. Rockets and shells were fired towards the civilian airport, the first direct attack on the capital and the Taleban fighters who have controlled the city for the past three weeks.

Military helicopters and fighter planes scrambled for safety and the city braced for a siege. Taleban soldiers plied north to reinforce the lines after the fall of Bagram military airbase to forces loyal to the former Government.

We told them these things belong to the government of Taleban. We will not tolerate stealing. This will show people what will happen to them if they steal

metal from a car wreck. "We told them these things belong to the Government of Taleban," Mullah Malang says. "We will not tolerate stealing. This will show

aces in Kabul, which are state property. Mullah Malang said he had done the boys a favour: had he referred the affair to higher authorities they might have had one or

Orthodox Jews go surfing on the kosher Internet

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

OBSERVANT Jews have come to terms with the information superhighway and produced a kosher version of the Internet that will shelter them from anything that might upset their sensibilities.

Administered by an Israeli company with the biblical name of Toranet, the new service was launched yesterday. It shields subscribers from all photographs of women, even those modestly dressed, and allows them to send e-mail questions on Halacha (religious law) to Orthodox rabbis and receive answers "within a few days".

"We have a team of five young religious men who surf the Internet daily, examine the content of web pages and decide whether to recommend if they can be included in Toranet," said Zvi Ilani, the marketing manager.

The *Jerusalem Post* said: "The Internet is no longer off-limits to observant Jews who fear the 'dirty parts' of the computer network will lead them and their children astray. They can now subscribe to a 'filtered' Internet in Hebrew and English."

The service has been giving the blessing of Rabbi Binjamin Yonatan Weiss from the Israeli seaside town of Netanya. As well as protecting subscribers from unacceptable influences, it provides web sites giving details on such subjects as sex-separated swimming pools, kosher restaurants and the times of the beginning and end of the weekly sabbath.

The Jews behind the novel service say that it was hard to develop the technology that makes possible controlled access to the Internet, which some people had claimed as "uncensorable". They said that the problem had been solved by giving Toranet users access only to certain sites, rather than barring them from reaching forbidden ones.

Dole's attacks fail to wound President

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

WITH his campaign running on little more than hope, Bob Dole continued to press his all-out attacks on President Clinton and the Democratic Party for accepting what he called improper donations from foreign sources.

The issue has thrown the Democrats unexpectedly on the defensive, but for now at least it is making no impact on Mr Clinton's clear lead in opinion polls over his Republican rival.

With the election just two weeks from tomorrow, Mr Clinton is ahead of Mr Dole by an average of 12 points nationally. He has a far more commanding advantage, however, in forecasts for the electoral college tally on which the presidential election is decided.

To win the White House, a candidate needs 270 of the 538 electoral college votes, which

are apportioned according to each state's seats in Congress. Mr Dole is seen as leading in 14 states, with 110 electoral college votes, against Mr Clinton's 29 states plus the city of Washington with 350 votes. Only seven states with a total of 78 votes are regarded as uncertain.

The imbalance is forcing Mr Dole to spend time and money on shoring up traditional Republican territory, such as Kentucky and Virginia, leaving Mr Clinton free to go poaching for votes in places like New Jersey, where Republicans have won six of the past seven elections but are trailing badly.

Mr Dole ratcheted up his invective against the President in a weekend radio address. "The ethical vacuum at the heart of this Administration has been filled with foreign money," he said.

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Britons make breakthrough on streets of Chicago



Evans dominant

FROM DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT
IN CHICAGO

AT LAST, at long last. For the first time in seven years, a British marathon runner broke the 2hr 10min barrier yesterday. Not that he stopped there. Paul Evans, who took up full-time running after being made redundant from his job as a shoemaker, became only the third Briton to break 2hr 09min when he won the Chicago marathon here.

It was the most successful day for British marathon running in a decade. Marian Sutton, despite the training disadvantages of living in Looe, Cornwall, won the women's

race. Since Veronique Marot's London victory in 1989, Britain has had to rely on Liz McColgan for its big city women's marathon victories — but not any more.

One beauty of the successes was in their contrast. Evans, resisting the safe option of leaving his move until late, pulled away after 18 miles and, thereafter, was never challenged. Sutton, well down the field at the half-way stage and 34sec adrift of Kristy Johnston, the leader, at 23 miles, did not hit the front until a mile from home.

Second in New York last year and third in London last April, Evans was still seeking his first big win, but that alone was not the sum of his ambition. He wanted a fast time.

After kicking away from his final challenger, Leonid Shvetsov, from Russia, Evans put in three sub-4min 50sec miles to open up a huge lead. He could not be caught unless he had misjudged it. "I never doubted I had done the right thing," Evans said. "I felt good all the way."

Evans finished in 2hr 08min 51sec, maintaining a fine British tradition here that began with Steve Jones setting a then world record of 2hr 08min 05sec in 1984. Jones ran the present British record of 2hr 07hr 13sec to win again in 1985, then Paul Davies-Hale took the title in 1989 and Eamonn Martin followed suit last year. Sutton, though, is the first British woman to win Chicago. Both winners pocketed a \$40,000

cheque (about £20,500) for finishing in first place and Evans a \$20,000 bonus for breaking 2hr 09min.

Only Jones and Charlie Spedding, who has run 2hr 08min 35sec, remain ahead of Evans on the British all-time list. Evans jumped from fourteenth to third ahead of, among others, Ian Thompson, Ron Hill and Richard Nerurkar.

Evans was a late entrant after New York, strangely, had failed to find room in its budget for him. Evans said, however, that he took no persuading to come to Chicago because of its reputation for being a fast course.

Yet the 35-year-old may never have taken up running had he not been a failed footballer. "I had the

speed, but the problems began when somebody gave me the ball," he said. "My manager told me to take up running. I was hurt at the time, but now I am glad he said it."

Sutton, easily picked out by her height, which she likes to describe as 5ft 12in, was not evident for most of the race. At no stage, though, did she give up the thought of winning. Opting for a steady pace, she always believed she would pick up places.

"The marathon is such a cruel distance," she said. "I did not know they would come back, but I knew they could come back." Improving her best by almost two minutes to 2hr 30min 41sec, Sutton hoped that Britain's Olympic Games selectors would regret leaving her out of the

team for Atlanta. "I was upset and felt I had a point to prove today," she said, referring to her omission after she had run faster than two athletes who were selected.

Sutton, because she lives remote from running partners, has to cover 80 per cent of her training in isolation. Without street lights outside Looe, on dark winter nights she is forced to run repetitive loops. She won here by 25sec from Johnston, of the United States.

Jerry Lawson, of the United States, took second behind Evans in 2hr 10min 23sec. Martin was fourth in 2hr 11min 20sec and Gary Staines made it three Britons in the first five with a personal best 2hr 11min 24sec.

BOXING: EUBANK'S NEWLY-DISCOVERED ZEAL FOR CONVERSION NOT MATCHED BY LACKLUSTRE PERFORMANCE IN THE RING

Repeat show from the impossible missionary

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE IN CAIRO

CHRIS EUBANK has always talked a good fight. On the evidence of his facile disposal of Luis Barrera on his return to the ring, the fear is that the talk is getting better and the fights worse. "History in the making," Eubank called the first professional boxing promotion in the Middle East, but it did not take the soldiers, sailors and dignitaries, who made up most of the crowd of 10,000, long to get the hang of it.

The Cairo indoor stadium, a sort of Wembley Arena with rugs, soon echoed to the twin anthems of Eubank's enigmatic career. *Simply the Best* accompanied his grand entrance: the slow handclap broke out after a couple of rounds as it dawned on the assembled militia that crossing the street was far more dangerous than this new-fangled boxing lark. "Come on, Christopher, get busy," came one weary English voice from among the red velvet VIP chairs. Music to Eubank's ears.

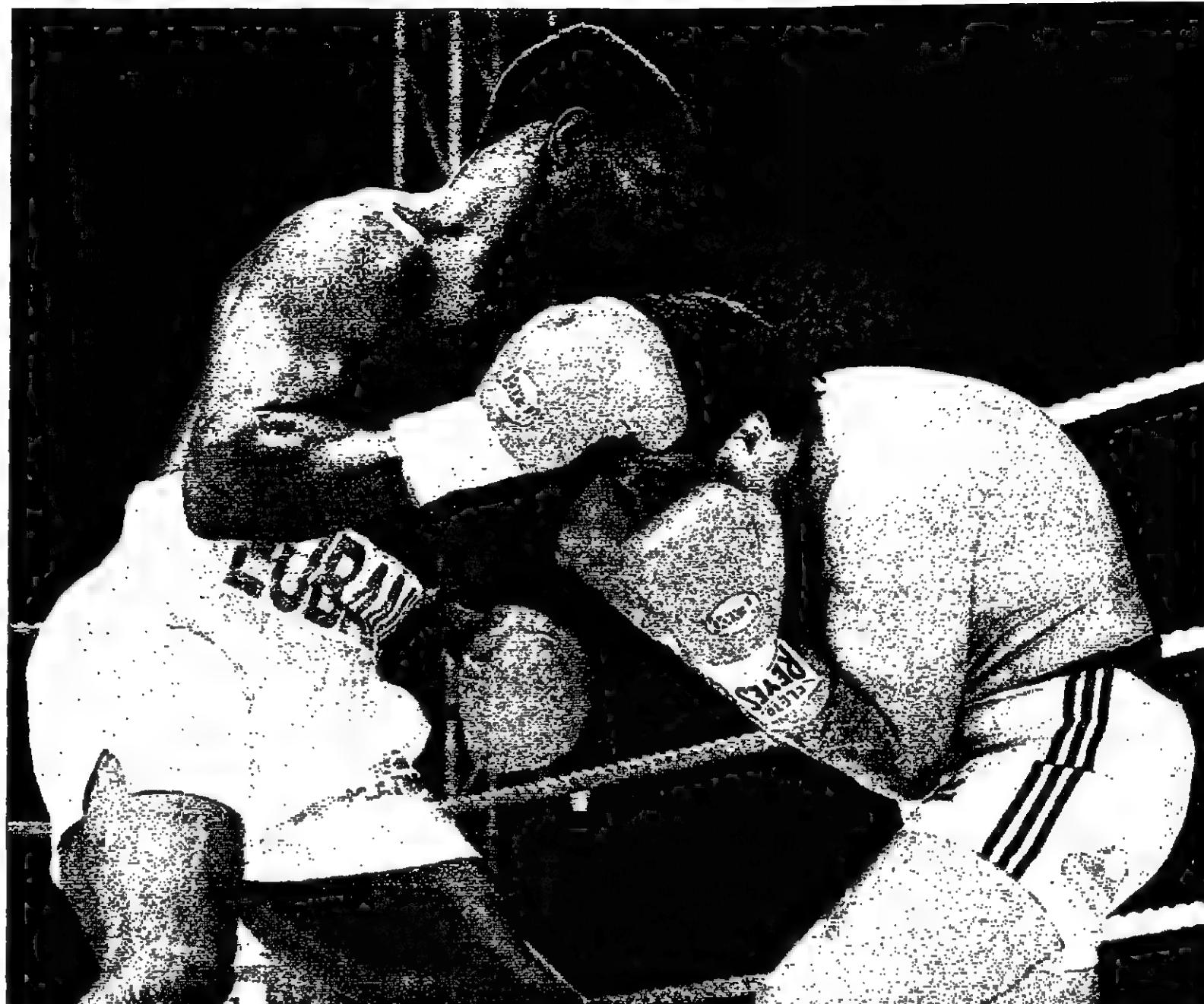
Eubank has couched his comeback in the language of the missionary and philosopher. Money is not the object, he said. This was about bringing boxing to the masses, opening up markets — the street markets that teem with robust but hopeless children searching, as Eubank once did, for a way out of poverty. Any budding world champion tuning in to Egyptian national television on Saturday night would, however, have received a severely distorted view of the

rough, tough world of professional boxing. Not so much blood sport as a cross between bodybuilding and ballroom dancing, a strange ritual in which two men circle each other while occasionally engaging in brief flurries of action and mean stares. Imagine a whole generation of Eubanks emerging from the backstreets of Cairo.

Barrera had read the small print on his contract carefully enough. He reversed the usual order of robbery by running, then taking the money. Billed as the "best fighter in South America", he backpedalled for four rounds, threw one meaningful punch and, when Eubank finally decided to get a little serious in the fifth, he crumpled to his knees after one cuff to the head and a decent body shot. Eubank was in more danger from tripping over the plush Persian carpets on his way to the ring, or choking on dry ice, than he was from the Argentine.

"How much better an opponent do you want me to get?" he asked. "He was clever and strong and I've been out of the ring for 12 months and one week. If I had stood still he would have hurt me."

Eubank will fight again in three or four months, probably back in the Middle East, which he describes as his second home, and as a lightweight, his natural weight. He will continue to promote his own fights through his company, Show Off Ltd. "I can whistle while I work and tap my feet at the



Eubank, left, delivers a somewhat less than venomous combination of blows to end his insipid contest with Barrera early in the fifth round

same time," he said. Whether he can make money doing it is open to doubt, unless more credible opponents than Barrera are served up for international television. For all his bravado, no one could sustain the sort of losses Eubank must have done in promoting the Style on the Nile show.

If the show was depressing-

ly familiar, in one respect Eubank has changed. The contempt he once showed for his profession has been replaced by a new belief in the healing powers of "the noble art" as he now calls boxing. "I've always loved to hate boxing," he said. "But boxing has made me a better person. Nothing gives me the buzz, the money, the platform, the re-

spect that boxing does. It's a springboard to bigger and better things."

Fancy words, noble sentiments: but like so much of Eubank's life, a hopeless fusion of fantasy and reality. Now that he seems to have turned his back on his home, Eubank sees himself as a globe-trotting ambassador for his sport. It would be sad to

see him trailing his tired circus to ever more remote corners, condemned to a lifetime of preaching to the unconvertible, an object of increasing ridicule. Eubank is too important a character for that.

Should he want it, a World Boxing Organisation title bout should not be long delayed. Eubank thinks he will be

ready in a year. "I will not be pressurised into climbing the ladder too quickly," he said. "I'll take things at my own pace."

There are rumours of a double bill with Eubank and Naseem Hamed and of staging his next show at Euro Disney. All talk probably. But you have to admire the man's courage.

Duff sure angry Woodhall will box on

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT
IN WASHINGTON

RICHIE WOODHALL'S hopes of gaining recognition and financial security suffered a setback when he failed to lift the World Boxing Council (WBC) middleweight title at Upper Marlboro, near here, on Saturday.

Woodhall, from Telford, was stopped in the twelfth round by Keith Holmes, of the United States, and the experience of finding himself on the floor for the first time left him in such a despondent state that he wondered if there was any point in carrying on boxing.

He said: "The way I've been treated, I don't know whether I want to be a part of it anymore. It's a rat race of a game. I might even retire after this." His camp claims that the WBC kept him waiting 18 months for the contest.

Before the bout, he had said: "I hope Mickey [Duff, his manager] doesn't want me to fight for the WBC again. It's been a nightmare. I don't want to have anything to do with them. When I say goodbye to boxing I'll have nothing good to say about them."

Woodhall has no other profession to turn to to support his family. It will be surprising if, on reflection he does not

decide to carry on boxing. Duff, said he will still challenge for the European title and, after that, another world title.

Nine months absence from the ring had, after all, eroded his sharpness and it did not help that Holmes was a southpaw. Woodhall has trouble with southpaws. But worst of all was his inability to focus on his preparation for the final fortnight. Woodhall had had an operation on his right elbow just eleven days ago. "The doctor said I would have to have it done again after the fight," he said. "I almost called off the fight, but having waited so long I did not know when

I'd get the chance again." While not putting it forward as an excuse, he said his arm injury returned after the third round. "Yes, it was painful, but he beat me fair and square. I was rusty and did not know how rusty until I got into the ring."

It was clear from this performance that inadequate preparation together with his injury had left him mentally insecure. When the bell went, he was unable to impose his will on Holmes, who though a slick boxer, is not daunting. Indeed, for much of the contest it was Holmes who showed him respect but Woodhall was not able to turn it to his

advantage. The judges had him trailing by four, five and six rounds. I had him three rounds behind, a deficit he could have wiped out if he had used that chopping right hand on Holmes's chin.

Although he fought back in the eleventh round he was exhausted and was not able to fend off a little left hook that dropped him onto his back. He got up at nine but was unsteady when Arthur Marcante, the referee, waved on the contest. It remained for Holmes to hit Woodhall 17 times without reply. As Woodhall was about to fold again, Marcante quickly stepped in.

Good-bye battery



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RUGBY LEAGUE

Britain in search of psychological lift

DESPITE being 10 down in the three-match international series, spirit in the Great Britain camp remains buoyant (Christopher Irvine writes). Nonetheless, they require a positive return from the trek north to Whangarei tomorrow, where they will face formidable Maori opposition, in order to get off the mark in New Zealand. A psychological lift after a draw and two defeats is important.

Tinkering, rather than drastic change, is expected for second full international match on Friday. Chris Joynt, now fully recovered from injury, could be the one change to the starting line-up, barring mishaps. Britain need all the experience they can muster, in which case Paul Sculthorpe, one of three teenagers in the side, would drop down to the substitute's bench.

The decision yesterday to

send home Joey Hayes and Jason Crichtley, who have both been limping for several weeks, gives Phil Larder, the coach, a problem with a shortage of cover on the wings. Keith Senior is switched to the right flank from centre for the match tomorrow. Larder has had to call on the touring Great Britain Academy side to loan Nathan McAvoy, their captain, who will be on the bench as an emergency measure at Whangarei.

NEW ZEALAND MAORIS: D Murray, J Parris, R Henry, D Tavaia, J Walker, J Stevens, P Hogg, P Rennie, T Blake, G G, D Pearce, R Shaw, T Haka, Jough, Saker, H Parris, M Gardner, G Mhori, S Whangarei.

SNOOKER

Davis discovers form to end barren spell

STEVE DAVIS provided evidence that his first tournament win for 21 months could well be imminent when he carried recent high-quality practice form into a competitive environment during a 5-0 victory over Gerard Greene in the Grand Prix at Bourne-mouth yesterday (Phil Yates writes).

Davis, the six-times world and United Kingdom champion, reached the last 16 of the event on the strength of a smooth display that lasted for only 82 minutes. In so doing, Davis demonstrated that a title drought, stretching back to the Regal Welsh Open of January 1995, could be coming to an end.

While Davis was encouraged with his showing, he does not believe that the path to a fourth Grand Prix success has been significantly smoothed by the early depart-

ure of luminaries such as Stephen Hendry and Peter Ebdon. "Even the so-called mugs are brilliant these days," Davis said. "In my heyday, the world No 70 was virtually part-timer. If I had played him, I only had to stand up to win. Now, the lower-ranked players can fire in three century breaks on the trot and knock you off the table."

"These lads today don't hold the bigger names in as much reverence as we did. They don't have as much respect for reputations, but all of this competition is tremendous and it certainly kept me as interested as ever."

Davis next meets Mark Bennett, hoping to maintain the confident approach which helped him to dispatch Greene, one of the "lads" to which he was alluding, so convincingly.

EQUESTRIANISM

Barnstormers lead British team home

KRISTINA Gifford and Rodney Powell carried the British team to success at Le Lion d'Angers International horse trials in France yesterday, when they finished first and second after barnstorming cross-country performances and good showjumping rounds (Davina Cannon writes). They also took first and second in the young horse championships.

The brief to the riders by Jenny Nolan, chef d'equipe for the team at the start of the event was "ride for your life", and they certainly did. Gifford went into the final showjumping yesterday with only one fence in hand. She was wonderful to get a win here, which is just like a mini-Olympics — so many top riders with their young horses." Her recent three-day event win in Nexar, Ireland, with

Mr Macauley, now brings her total three-day event successes to four and makes up for her disappointment in missing the Olympic Games in Atlanta due to lame horses.

Rodolphe Scherer, a member of the France team that took fourth place in the Olympics, was third, having been conveniently in the leading three throughout.

He now moves to Watlington, Oxford. "To train and teach and benefit from the excellent British equestrian opportunities."

Mark Todd's costly three showjumps down dropped him from third after the cross-country to 15th place. Rodney Powell and Flintstone blazed the trail, taking an early lead in Saturday's action-packed cross-country and bonsting British morale.

IN BRIEF

Davies in breeze to another victory

LAURA DAVIES pulled off the eighth win of the year when she battled to a final round of 76 to win the Italian Open golf tournament over the windswept Il Piccola course in Sicily yesterday.

With a ten-under-par total of 282, Davies completed a 49th career victory when she finished three strokes clear of Fiona Pike, from Australia, who shared second place with Tina Fischer, from Germany.

Her fourth Italian Open triumph earned Davies £15,000 to assure her of leading the European money list for the fourth time since 1985.

Yates bows out

Cycling: Sean Yates ends an international career spanning 14 years next weekend when he competes in the final round of the World Cup series in Japan. It will be a double farewell for the Sussex rider, an Olympic pursuiter in the 1980 Games, who became Europe's top *Domestique*; the race will also mark the break-up of his team after Motorola's decision to end its sponsorship.

Yesterday, Yates returned to his roots, time-trials, to win the Brighton Mire 25-mile trial based on a course at Steyning with a record time of 52min 54sec. Eighteen years ago, he won the trial in 55min 19sec.

Sharks stung

Ice hockey: Bracknell Bees brought off the surprise of the Superleague season by defeating Sheffield Steelers 5-1 on Saturday, inflicting the first home defeat on the Yorkshire club in almost two years. Three first-year players took the lead role in Bracknell's victory. Wayne Bucsis scoring a hat-trick, Dale Junkin scoring two goals and Mark Bernard, the netminder, saving 47 of Sheffield's 48 shots on goal.

Horton supreme

Golf: Tommy Horton, 53, with a round of 69 that gave him a four-round total of 206, beat his playing partners, Malcolm Gregson (71) and Gary Player (70), into joint second place on 208 in the Player Championship at The Buckinghamshire, Denham yesterday.

Millwall in hunt

Football: Croydon head the women's Premier national league after a 2-1 victory at Southampton Saints but their form is being matched by Millwall Lionesses — 2-1 winners at Ilkeston — who trail the league leaders on goal difference.

GOLF: UNDEFEATED SOUTH AFRICAN BEATS SINGH OF FIJI TO CLAIM THIRD SUCCESSIVE WORLD MATCH PLAY TITLE

Victory lion no match for tigerish Els

By JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

ERNIE ELS has turned a leafy Surrey suburb into an outpost of the Rainbow Nation, making the West Course at Wentworth something of a personal domain by winning the Toyota World Match Play Championship for the third year in a row yesterday. Not since the competition began in 1964 has anyone won three consecutive finals. Els, who first competed in this event in 1994, when he was the reigning US Open champion, has played nine matches without defeat and accumulated £500,000 at a rate of £1,634 per hole. All this largesse from one sponsor and he still does not have his own car back home in South Africa.

In the drizzle yesterday, Els flicked away the challenge of Vijay Singh, from Fiji, as easily as he wiped some rain drops from his forehead. Singh was no match for him. He was not one of the four seeds and had played 37 holes more than Els, the No 1 seed, before the final. Perhaps fatigue began to catch up with Singh when the damp started to seep into his clothes and his glasses became misted over.

Certainly, Singh's golf did not have the same fluent accuracy and power in the



Els demonstrates the power that has made him such a dominant force at Wentworth over the past three years, and took him to a 3 and 2 victory in the final yesterday

DETAILS

SEMI-FINALS: E. Els (SA) bt M. Brooks (US) 10 and 8; V. Singh (Fiji) bt T. Lehman (US) at 57th.
THIRD-PLACE PLAY-OFF: Brooks bt Lehman 1 hole.
FINAL: Els bt Singh 3 and 2.

final as it had in the preceding rounds. Singh had only two bogeys in his three matches before the final, but had three yesterday morning and a fourth after lunch. The man whose name in Sanskrit means Victory Lion was defeated by 3 and 2.

Els, 27 last Thursday, plays well at Wentworth for a number of reasons. He is big and strong enough not to be overpowered by the muscular challenge presented by the Burma Road. He has an ideal temperament for matchplay, rarely getting ruffled and not giving up easily. If he was prone to that latter weakness, he would not have come back from being six down to Steve Stricker on Friday — and his putting stroke is smooth and reliable. Gone is that destructive tendency to hook the ball off the tee, that has dogged him on occasions.

Still, there is more to Els's extraordinary run of success than that. "It goes back to the year I finished second to José María Olazábal in the PGA here," Els said, a broad smile on his face. "That year, I think I learnt how to play the course and I liked it. I learnt where to put your tee ball, where to be in the fairway, where to go for

the flag. I think I was 17 under par for four rounds. The course suits my game. I like having to work out that on some holes you must take a three-wood or a two-iron from the tee and then to go for the flag."

On a damp, overcast morning, when Singh was two up after three holes and two down after nine, there were two strokes that stick in the memory. On the 12th, Els hooked his tee shot into the trees and undergrowth that line the fairway. As he tried to work out how to play his second, it appeared that he had little option but to come out sideways. Somehow, though, he found a gap in the foliage and punched his ball through it with a seven-iron to 50 yards from the green. After such heroics, getting down in two more strokes was easy.

A cardinal rule when playing the 13th hole is not to go left from the tee. Singh disobeyed this rule and, when he reached his ball, he saw that his route to the green was blocked by trees. To avoid these trees and reach the green, he had to shape his shot from right to left. He did this beautifully, by as much as 30 yards, so that it finishes on the back fringe of the green, from where he two-putted.

These holes apart, there was a surprising amount of luck-lustre play, as if the grey skies that always threatened to unload heavy rain were affecting the ability of the two men beneath.

The 12th in the afternoon — the 30th hole of the day — played an important part in determining the outcome of the final. Singh failed to take advantage of being near the

green in two strokes. His chip on to the wet green pulled up quicker than he expected and he two-putted. He has been reconciled, by the way, with a normal-sized putter after a year's liaison with a broomhandle putter. Els, meanwhile, had hit into the trees, hacked out, and counted himself lucky to get away with a half and remain three up.

"I gave him five holes," Singh said. "I conceded one and I had four bogeys, and then I did not birdie the 12th from the side of the green. That is not good enough. If you give holes to him then he is a very hard player to win those holes back from. He did not miss a shot this afternoon until the 12th hole, and he got away with a par and a half. He swung the club well and he's such a good player. He is going to be No 1 soon."

THREE YEARS OF DOMINATION BY ELS AT WENTWORTH



A familiar sight Els with the World Match Play trophy

1994
beat S Belleserios (Sp) 2 and 1 (11 under par)
beat J-M Cazabal (Sp) 2 and 1 (7 under par)
beat C Montgomerie (Scot) 4 and 2 (7 under par)
Prize-money: £160,000
1995
beat L Jazcan (US) 4 and 3 (12 under par)
beat B Langer (Ger) 1 hole (7 under par)
beat S Elkington (Aus) 3 and 1 (6 under par)
Prize-money: £170,000
1996
beat S Stricker (US) 1 hole (8 under par)
beat M Brooks (US) 10 and 8 (4 under par)
beat V Singh (Fiji) 3 and 2 (4 under par)
Prize-money: £170,000
OVERALL RECORD
Played 9, Won 9
65 under par
Prize-money: £500,000

BASKETBALL

Jets soar to surprise victory over Towers

By NICHOLAS HARLING

AS IF to emphasise that their two recent defeats of Sheffield Sharks were no fluke, Chester Jets went one better by recording the shock result of the season so far at Wembley last night.

The Jets, who finished one from bottom in the Budweiser League last season, beat London Towers, the champions, 91-88. They survived a frantic last two minutes after having the foundations for their success with a blistering 18-2 pre-interval burst, during which Kevin Cadle, the Towers' coach, incurred a

technical foul for protesting too much.

During that spell, the Jets overcame the London press all too easily for the liking of Cadle. "To beat London, you've got to beat their press," Mike Burton, the jubilant Jets' coach, said.

Billy Singleton (22 points) and Ricardo Leonard (18) excelled at close quarters, but the Jets were also indebted in the backcourt to Russ Saunders (25) and Nigel Palmer (15). For Saunders, the league's all-time top scorer and the shooter of four three-pointers yesterday, the occasion was particularly sweet as he played under Cadle for Guildford Kings three years ago.

The Leopards, who receive the Towers in next Sunday's eagerly-awaited capital encounter, registered the highest score of the season en route to their 130-108 victory over Hemel & Watford Royals on Saturday. Watched by Ronnie Baker, the England guard, who is at the centre of a stormy transfer saga involving Crystal Palace, the Leopards won convincingly, helped by 34 points from Eric Burks.

Baker's prevarications over a proposed transfer to Palace led to Alton Byrd being forced out of retirement two weeks short of his 30th birthday. Bird, the Palace coach, played in his team's 87-74 defeat at Birmingham Bullets.

Leopards, who released Baker in the summer, now want him back but are refusing to pay the £2,000 transfer fee demanded by Palace. The English Basketball Association will arbitrate on Thursday.

Below-par cast list leaves Alliss in wonder land

An excited Alex Hay exclaimed: "Ooh, just look at that divot. Fantastic on the super slo-mo camera, aren't they?" I looked — it was indeed a fine divot, a truly remarkable piece of turf that, liberated from its natural habitat, arced and soared into the air before falling back to earth ... ooh, all of six feet away from Vijay Singh's left foot.

The final day of the Toyota World Match Play Championship and it was all getting a bit technical on BBC2. And rightly so, because this was never going to be a day that attracted much interest from the non-golfing viewer. It was wet, Wentworth looked cold and Colin Montgomerie had gone out of the tournament on Friday. Bad news, I suspect, for viewing figures, but good news for the Alex Hay Swing Clinic. Suddenly the air was thick with talk of long thumbs, folded wrists and flat left heels. I didn't understand a word of it.

For those in a similar position there was always our old friend, Peter Alliss, to fall back on. It was he who explained why Ernie Els and Singh were paddling their way round the final 18 holes in almost total silence. "Difficult to clap when you have an umbrella in one hand." Ah, what it is to have the common touch. What it is to have the communication skills to turn a perfectly legitimate viewer's plea for larger writing on scorecards into a damning critique of the modern car radio: "You need good glasses and four A levels to find what used to be called the Light Programme." Ah, the Light Programme, that reminds me of my old friend ...



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

After four days in Alliss's company, I feel pretty much up to speed on his old friends. We know which ones are recovering from by-pass surgery, which ones are still enjoying their "pints of hops" at 86 and which one is dreading next weekend, when the clocks go back and he has to adjust his collection of 700 timepieces. Actually, Alliss announced during the morning round that the clocks had actually gone back yesterday ... just his little joke, of course.

But Alliss had gone all anecdotal for the same reasons that Hay had gone all technical. On the course, the action was not quite hitting the mark. "Bit of a dull day," he told Steve Rider on Thursday. "Lehman, Jones, Brooks — not exactly household names, are they?" he observed on Friday, as somebody called Stricker went six-up against Els. Sadly, the one man who might have put a bit of flesh on the bones of these lesser-known Americans, Dave Marr, had to forgo his stint in the BBC commentary box because of ill-health.

As it turned out Friday was probably the best day for the BBC cameras — although it certainly did not look that way when a slightly anxious-looking Rider bade us welcome shortly after 2pm. Bad weather had caused a delay to the morning round, long enough

for the BBC to go an air just as the players were at lunch. No problem — there were highlights of the morning round to catch up on. So why Rider's vague-sounding promise of "hopefully bringing you live action later on" — especially with the weather set fair for the afternoon?

I have no idea. But what followed showed the importance of the word "live" that the satellite channels have in the corner of their screens but which the BBC usually avoids. For, after deliberately lingering over the morning highlights, coverage of the second round got under way about an hour after play had actually begun.

So while the pictures showed Brooks and Montgomerie battling it out at the 2nd, Ceefax showed that they had already settled the 6th. This delayed coverage masquerading as live — a bad habit picked up from the BBC's snooker coverage — will not do.

To be fair, however, the BBC made up for it later, commendably extending the afternoon coverage — by then property live — to capture the last-putt victories of Els and Brooks and running into the football results on Saturday so that we could see Singh claim victory at the extra hole. Good lads, as Alliss would doubtless say.

HOCKEY

Edwards goal brings Reading safely home

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

PERSISTENT rain did not prevent a feast of goals at Reading yesterday, where the home side defeated Barford Tigers 5-2 in the premier division of the National League. Exchanges were even except that Reading's reactions were quicker inside the circle and in Mason they had the stronger goalkeeper.

After 21 minutes, Manpreet Kochar set up Mark Hoskin to give Reading the lead, which was increased by Slay from a short corner in the 29th minute and Loose two minutes later. After the interval, Barford Tigers came back strongly with a goal by Carson, but Osofo's goal from a short corner put Reading 4-1 ahead. Chaudhry brought Barford back into the game again with a goal from a short corner, but Edwards secured the points.

Old Loughtonians proved much too strong for Sorbiton and romped home 6-1 to go joint top with Reading. Nick Thompson scored three goals for Old Loughtonians. Teddington won 5-4 at Guildford, with Billson scoring the decisive goal ten minutes from time. Temporary suspensions reduced Guildford to eight men in the 60th minute, Garrard, Jennings and Morris having been sent off in quick succession. Teddington themselves lost Way and Nicklin. Jennings scored twice for Guildford.

The gloom deepened for Havant, still anchored at the bottom of the table, after a 3-0 defeat by East Grinstead, for whom Gibson, Boyse and Head scored from open play. Southgate kept themselves afloat with a 2-1 win over

Canterbury. Danny Kerry and Waugh scoring for Southgate and Wicken replying for Canterbury. Cannock, the title-holders, capitalised on short corners for a 3-1 victory over Hounslow. Parnham scoring twice and Crutchley adding the third. Hanks replied for Hounslow. Beeston still lead the first division after a 4-0 win over Oxford Hawks.

CRICKET

Big-hitting Wasim sends Test records tumbling

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

SHEIKHUPURA (fourth day of five): Zimbabwe, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 140 runs behind Pakistan

WASIM AKRAM, the Pakistan captain, hit a career-best unbeaten 257 and set two world records in the first Test match against Zimbabwe at Sheikhupura yesterday. His brilliant innings, which included 12 sixes, came during a Test record eighth-wicket stand of 313 with Saqlain Mushtaq.

Pakistan, who were perilously placed at one stage on Friday at 183 for six, were all out for 353 for a first-innings lead of 178. By the close of play on a fourth day shortened by rain and bad light, Zimbabwe were 38 for one.

Wasim's stand with Saqlain eclipsed the 65-year-old Test match record of 246 set by the England pair of Les Ames and Gubby Allen against New Zealand at Lord's in 1931.

Wasim's 489-minute, 370-ball marathon also established a record for most sixes — 12 — in a Test match. The previous record was held by Wally Hammond, the England batsman, who hit ten in his 336 against New Zealand at Auckland in the 1932-33 series.

The Wasim-Saqlain partnership was eventually broken by Guy Whittall, the seam bowler, with the score at 550 when he bowled Saqlain for a Test match best of 79.

The Pakistan captain, who was unbeaten overnight on 144 out of total of 395 for seven, cut loose mercilessly after reaching his double-century with his eighth six, a towering shot over mid-wicket off the leg spinner, Paul Strang.

He made the most of a let-off soon after play began 50 minutes late yesterday because of light rain, when he was dropped at mid-off by David Houghton.

Wasim was especially severe on Strang whom he smashed for three sixes in one over, one of which went out of the ground over long-on. The sixes took him from 195 to 213 and established him as Pakistan's highest scorer batting at No 3, surpassing Imtiaz Ahmed's 209 against New Zealand at Lahore in the 1954-55 series.

Whittall's dismissal of Saqlain was followed immediately by the wicket of Waqar Younis. His brother, Andrew, ended the Pakistan innings by dismissing Shahid Nazir. Strang finished with five for 212 from 69 overs.

ZIMBABWE: First innings 375 (G W Flower 110, P A Strang 108 not out, Solved 144, 5 for 58).

Second innings: M H Durrani c Wasim b Saqlain 13, G W Flower not out 11, "A D R Campbell not out 14, Extras 0, Total 1 wicket 58.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-13 BOWLING: Waqar Younis 4-15-0, Shahid Nazir 5-24-0, A R Whittall 6-27-146-2, Wasim Akram 20-4-0.

PROTESTANT: First innings:

Saeed Anwar c A Flower b P A Strang 61, Amir Sohail c A Flower b P A Strang 46, Shafiqul Islam c Houghton b A R Whittall 3, Iqbal Ahmed b C George 9, Salim Malik b P A Strang 52, Azam Khan b P A Strang 14, "Wahid Khan c A R Whittall b P A Strang 18, "Wahid Akram not out 29, Graham Mitchell b G J Whittall 79, Waqar Younis b G J Whittall 0, Shafiqul Islam c Durrani b A R Whittall 0, Extras 10, 10, 8, 2, 16, 51, 25.

Total 1 wicket 265.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-44, 2-77, 3-91, 4-142, 5-176, 6-183, 7-257, 8-560, 9-550.

BOWLING: George 19-6-0-1, B C Strang 20-2-34-0, A R Whittall 45-27-146-2, P A Strang 68-12-215-5, G J Whittall 25-7-73-2, G W Flower 10-4-10-0.

Overseas: D Chaudhry (South Africa) and Khizer Hayat (Pakistan).

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FOOTBALL

Little learns lesson in how to win matches

Aston Villa 2
Leeds United 0

By Pat Gibson

IT MUST say something for the quality of the FA Carling Premiership that Savo Milosevic, the Yugoslavia striker who has scored more goals than anybody in the qualifying matches for the World Cup, is going to have to fight to win back his place in the Aston Villa side.

Brian Little, the Villa manager, made that clear after his decision to leave out his £3.5 million man, whose stunning goal put them on the way to victory the last time that they played Leeds United, in the Coca-Cola Cup final in March, had been handsomely vindicated by Villa's first win in eight games.

The message was plain.

Full results and league tables Page 30

Nobody, not Milosevic, not Gareth Southgate, who was missing through injury, not Mark Draper, who was suspended, not Steve Staunton, who went off with a damaged hamstring, can take anything for granted now that Little has come to the realisation that his best side is the one that wins matches for him.

"It was something that hit me flat in the face after we had lost at Tottenham last week," Little said. "Perhaps I had been getting blinded by the fact that the team was playing well. Perhaps it was my own fault that we had lost that competitive edge in the dressing-room."

"I always question myself more than anybody else and after that game, I asked: 'Are you picking the right team?' It was a good time to shake things up, to change the policy of it if you like. As a manager,

you've always got to be ready to adapt and I learnt an important lesson."

So did the players, to judge from the way that they overcame their understandable lack of confidence early in the game to outclass Leeds with a performance that suggested that they could yet emerge among the more realistic challengers for Manchester United's championship.

At the centre of it all was Curic, the spindly Serb, who does not so much dribble past would-be tacklers as glide over them, which is precisely what he did when he resisted Ford's crude challenge to set up the first goal, on the hour. His pass from the left was instantly dispatched by Johnson, Milosevic's replacement, into the path of Yorke, whose angled shot was too powerful for Martyn to stop.

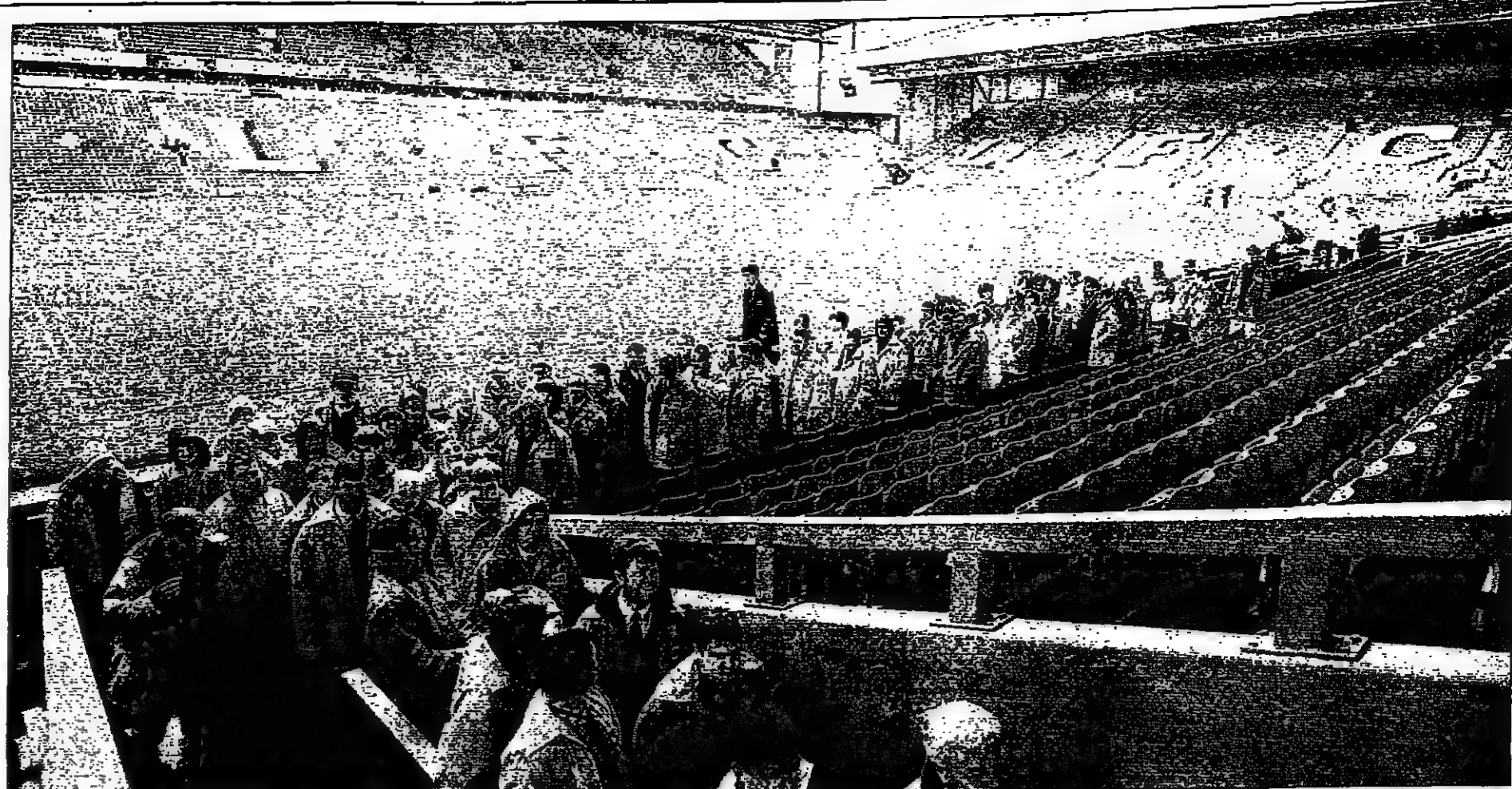
Six minutes later, it was Curic again who found Yorke wide on the right, where he had the time and the space to measure his cross for Johnson to beat Martyn with a sweet, side-footed volley.

It was too much for Leeds, who had nothing to offer in reply, apart from a tame effort by Hateley, who thus finished his two-month spell on loan from Queens Park Rangers without a goal to his name.

So where did it go wrong for Leeds? "It was quite simple really," George Graham, their manager, said after his fourth defeat in five games since he took over from Howard Wilkinson. "At the back, in mid-field and up front. I don't think there is any question about it. We need new players."

For me, too, it was a major disappointment because, for just about the first time, I had all my family there. I know there was no way the game could be played, but I so desperately wanted to play against Everton for two reasons.

First, my mum and my younger brother, David, were here, and they hardly ever come to a match. David is not interested in football; the only reason he came was because Mel, of The Spice Girls, was here as my



Stewards file away from Anfield yesterday after the late postponement of the eagerly-awaited FA Carling Premiership match between Liverpool and Everton

Red-letter day ends in blues on Merseyside

I am probably the most frustrating experience a footballer can have. I was changed and ready to go out for a warm-up at 2.15 yesterday when Roy Evans, our manager, came into the Anfield dressing-room to tell us the match was off. It took us a while to work out he wasn't joking.

It's not so bad if you know the day before — or even in the morning — that the game has been called off, but 45 minutes before the kick-off is difficult, especially with a game as big as that against Everton.

You have to prepare for any game, but, with a match as big as a local derby, you need to really psyche yourself up, get prepared and be ready, because it is an intense experience. To then be told that the match is off is a real let-down.

For me, too, it was a major disappointment because, for just about the first time, I had all my family there. I know there was no way the game could be played, but I so desperately wanted to play against Everton for two reasons.

First, my mum and my younger brother, David, were here, and they hardly ever come to a match. David is not interested in football; the only reason he came was because Mel, of The Spice Girls, was here as my

guest, and he's a big fan of theirs. I asked him if he realised he would have to watch the match and he said that he would bring a book.

Second, there's the Everton thing. My dad, Dave, was an Everton supporter and so was I until I signed for Liverpool. Even my girlfriend Victoria's family are mad Everton supporters, so it would have been nice to have played well against them.

The game against the Blues is important to me. I still have a letter from Everton Football Club. It is stuffed in a suitcase full of old Blues memorabilia from when I was a kid. It is a letter that gave me more than the odd pang of regret when I received it as a 16-year-old Everton fanatic. It is a letter from the club I supported, turning me down.

I'm from Liverpool, and in this city you are either Blue or Red. I was Blue through and through and I used to go to as many games as possible with my dad. So, when Everton were one of a few clubs interested in signing me, I was overjoyed.

I've read a few stories about Everton rejecting me after a trial, but that's rubbish. What happened was far simpler. I had been offered terms from Liverpool and a couple

STEVE McMANAMAN



has special reason to rue a postponed derby

of other clubs, saying they would give me a full YTS apprenticeship for three seasons. I went to Everton and said that if they could offer me that same security, I would sign for them. They said they didn't do that and let me go.

I hope they regret it now. I certainly don't because things could not have gone any better for me at

Liverpool. Back then, though, I did have a slight sense of regret. I was Everton daft. My dad first took me to see them when I was a little lad. I went to all the big games: the European Cup Winners' Cup semi-final, and the FA Cup final when Gary Lineker scored but Liverpool went on to win.

People ask me even now if I am still an Everton fan, and I would say yes. You never lose your affection for your first club: there is something about being a football supporter that stays with you. People may think that you lose your passion for the game when you become a player, but you never do.

I still look out for Everton and I like to go and watch them if I can. But don't get that confused with wanting them to win. There is only one club I am interested in winning now, and that's Liverpool. Nobody wanted to win more than me yesterday and nobody wanted to score more than me, because I hadn't scored against them in all the games I have played against them.

My dad is still an Everton fan, as are a lot of my family and friends, but you know what they say about blood being thicker than water. He wants me to do well first and then the Blues come after that. Anyway,

I'm slowly converting everyone to my way of thinking.

Mind you, there's nothing like a decent derby match to split families. Here in Liverpool, we might be unique because just about every family is split between Reds and Blues. Before and after the game they are friendly, but for 90 minutes there is an intense rivalry.

That's what it's like in my family: my dad is Everton, and a couple of his brothers are Liverpool. What it illustrates is how passionate derby matches are. People say that footballers are overpaid, overperformed and don't have a feel for the game, but try telling that to Liverpool lads like me and Robbie Fowler, who is also a secret Blues fan.

We know derby matches are murder, we know that the supporters will get sick for weeks at work or school if their side loses. We know just how important the game is in people's lives: I just have to look at the requests for tickets I get to know that. It is something that is important to the players. Sometimes supporters may not think so, but we really give it everything we have got because we know that they are spending their hard-earned money on watching us. Nobody wants to lose that game.

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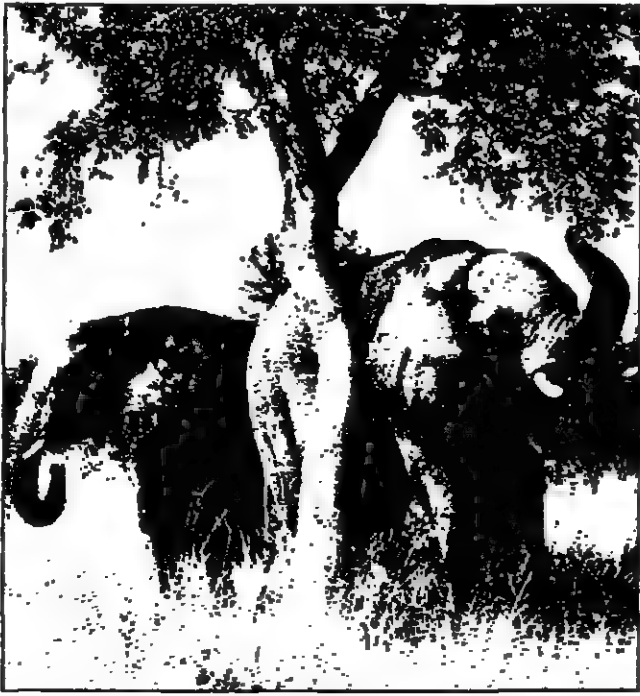
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Time comes for boys to grow up

West Ham United 1
Leicester City 0

By Russell Kimpson

FOOTBALL — as many a manager will confirm, when reading from his autocode — is a man's game. It is also, frequently, a game in which men bend and break the rules, verbally abuse their opponents, the officials and, occasionally, the supporters, indulge in every form of gamesmanship and generally act like spoilt little rich kids.

Then, by way of absolution and without a trace of guilt, they blame the referee.

At Upton Park on Saturday, it was a real man's game. Billie Dickson and Porfirio, the West Ham United, and Whitlow, Walsh, Lennon and Heskey, of Leicester City, were cautioned. Walsh was also sent off, two minutes from the end, for committing a second bookable offence.

He caught Miklosko, the West Ham goalkeeper, late, and was dismissed for the twelfth time in his 15-year career. Admittedly, it was the first time in four seasons, but, having already seen yellow, albeit harshly for hand ball, he saw red; he had to go.

Cue autocode. Harry Redknapp, the West Ham manager, said: "There were a lot of bookings, but it wasn't a vicious game." He did not overtly condemn the display of Mike Riley, the referee, but the inference was barely disguised.

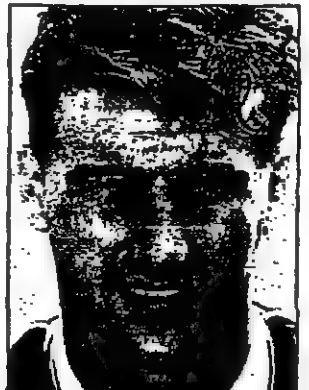
Martin O'Neill, the Leicester manager, was less circumspect. Amid the banter from O'Neill, the former Northern Ireland international, he admitted to "ranting and raving" in the privacy of the officials' dressing-room after the match and claimed that Riley's rulings and subsequent explanations did not exactly add up. "I thought I was the only Irishman around here," he said.

"I'm not going to say too much for the good of the game. I've been fined enough times and the FA could probably go on holiday with the amount of money I've given them over the years. Our disciplinary record is exemplary."

Leicester, indeed, do not figure prominently in the FA Carling Premiership's rogues' gallery this season. West Ham are hardly serial miscreants, either — yet what the pair produced on Saturday was a little short of a shameful, spiteful spectacle.

Had Riley adopted his initial approach, when he brandished 23 yellow and two red cards during the first four outings of his maiden Premiership season, the game could have ended up seven-a-side. Yet he chatted to, calmed and desperately tried to control the combatants until his patience finally ran out in the 43rd minute, when he booked Bilic.

To apportion fault to Riley is not only ludicrous but



Walsh: sent off

oh-so-convenient, so stereotypical and a cross abdication of responsibility from West Ham and Leicester, players and management. It was needless, too, with the sides, when concentrating on playing the ball, creating enough chances to have produced an invigorating goal glut.

Moncur's 78th-minute effort, tucked home nicely from Porfirio's precise pass, sufficed. Shame about the rubbish that surrounded it: shame about the words that followed it. It is about time the spoilt little rich kids grew up, owned up and behaved.

WEST HAM UNITED (4-3-3): 1. Miklosko — 14. Bowen (sub: T. Bracken, 76min), 5. Bala, 11. Rogers, 12. Dickson — 10. Moncur, 1. Bishop, 14. Heskey — 7. Redknapp (sub: S. Latchford, 89), 1. Down, 11. Porfirio

Style straitjacket stifling creativity

Sheffield Wednesday 1
Blackburn Rovers 1

By David Maddock

ONE could not help noticing the irony implicit in the formation of both teams during this stifled contest. Both resorted to traditional, comfortable 4-4-2, and both then unveiled foreign players with flair, touch and imagination to provide an extra dimension to a predictable tactic.

Sheffield Wednesday had Benito Carbone making his debut after a £2.3 million transfer that became almost a saga. On the other flank, they had the mercurial Regi Blinker, noticeable if only because he has that rare ability to do everything correctly.

The irony with Blackburn Rovers was even more stark. They started with such a regimented formation that their foreign players were confined to the bench, but, when a spark of inspiration was desperately needed at 1-0 down, Georgios Donis and Lars Bohinen were brought on — and duly obliged.

More and more, managers are looking abroad for players like Carbone of technique and flair who can rise above the confines of the English game, but surely it is the stifling nature of such predictable formations that has created this need in the first place. It has squeezed the creative life out of English players.

A whole generation has arrived without technique or flair and so the search for talent has extended beyond these shores. It begs the question, however, of whether the foreign imports will become equally anonymous and uninspiring after a few seasons in the 4-4-2 straitjacket.

Certainly, Carbone, for all his balance and control, was not allowed to be too effective, because the system in which he played did not encourage his particular brand of attacking skills. He and Blinker were asked to track back, rather than stay forward. That was bad, but listen to the reasons that Ray Harford, the Blackburn manager, offered for not starting with Donis, a player of rare creative talent. He said: "There are times

when we haven't got the ball that George isn't in tune with what we are trying to do." Surely, the point is that Rovers are not in tune with what Donis is trying to do, which must be seen as an indictment of English football.

At least Blinker and Carbone were allowed some licence, and they provided the best moments of the match.

Blinker's passing created chances that Booth and Hirst declined, shamefaced, and Carbone created opportunities for himself and others, also declined. Wednesday should be embarrassed that they found the net only once, in the third minute, when Hirst crossed sharply for Booth to flick the ball first time beyond Flowers, the advancing goalkeeper.

Blackburn were dead in the water after such an early setback and displayed just why they are a sitting duck at the foot of the Premiership. Somehow, though, their luck held out until the cavalry arrived in the form of Donis and Bohinen.

The match was transformed when Donis, the Greece international, injected his pace into the fray, and literally when Bohinen found the net with his first touch after Sherwood's clever shot under pressure had come back off the foot of a post.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-4-2): K. Price — 1. P. Atkinson, 11. Newsome, 10. Walker, 1. Nott — 8. Carbone (sub: R. Hunte, 77min), 10. G. Hyslop, 10. Trustall (sub: M. Pennington, 77), 11. R. Barker — 1. Booth, 10. Hirst (sub: G. Whitham, 89)

BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-4-2): 1. Powers — 11. J. Harte, 11. Berg, 11. Pearce, 10. C. O'Neil — 5. Riley (sub: G. Dool, 60), 11. Shawcross, 10. F. Fletcher, 10. Wicks (sub: L. Bohinen, 73) — 11. K. Gollacher, 10. Sullivan

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FOOTBALL: OLD FIRM RIVALS THROW AWAY VICTORIES AS SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIP BECOMES CONTEST OF FALLIBILITY

Celtic betray signs of championship nerves

Heart of Midlothian 2
Celtic 2

By Kevin McCarron

IT MAY only be October, but the Old Firm prematurely bear the agonised expressions of men who are in the closing stages of a championship. Yesterday, Celtic, in the closing moments, fumbled and let slip a victory that had been in their clumsy grasp. Rangers, 24 hours before, had permitted Aberdeen a draw at Ibrox and infuriated their supporters in the same manner.

Tantalising and infuriating though these events may have been to them, the Glasgow clubs were left with the results that they deserved. Had Heart of Midlothian, who had been dominant in the first half of this match, lost, they would have been left trying to reconcile the variety of chances that they created with a lack of reward.

A minute into added time, however, they were to be spared the brooding. Stubbs was nervous and weak with a header that should have gone out of play and Hearts forced play down the right. From there, Bruno, a substitute, crossed for McPherson to head past Kerr, so notching the first league goal of his second spell at Tynecastle.

The sight of Celtic and Rangers faltering is a delightful spectacle for the beleaguered remainder of Scottish football and the conviction grows that, in the Old Firm sides, style is at present attempting to masquerade as substance. Each team held a 2-0 lead, but could not summon up the rigour to protect it.

Rangers, for whom a penitent Paul Gascoigne opened



Van Hooijdonk, Celtic's imposing striker, takes on the Heart of Midlothian defence during the premier division draw at Tynecastle yesterday

the scoring with a spectacular free kick, failed to prevent Dodds from hauling Aberdeen to a 2-2 draw, with a goal in the 88th minute. Victory in Edinburgh would have seen Celtic elbow themselves in front, on goal difference, at the top of the Bell's Scottish

League premier division. Instead, they remain two points behind Rangers and their performance against Hearts was evidence of flawed temperament. The notion that Celtic had been ahead at the interval struck Jim Jefferies, the Hearts manager, as a

"travesty" and, for once in football, the term fitted the facts.

His side had been adept at launching midfield players through Celtic's threadbare cover and Salvatori, galloping down the right in the 24th minute, overhit the simple

pass that ought to have put Robertson clear. After Celtic had opened the scoring, Weir jabbed at Cameron's through ball and sent a shot skimming wide.

On a soggy day, Celtic, especially in the first half, failed to produce the crisp co-

ordination on which their style is based. It was the inclinations of individuals that produced an illusion of control in the score. Di Canio, after 38 minutes, prised open the Hearts defence by twisting round Pointon and rolling over a cross that was dum-

mied by Donnelly and finished with authority by Van Hooijdonk.

Six minutes into the second half, the same player recorded his fifth goal for Celtic since signing in January 1995. The shot, after Boyd's cross and Wiegman's downward header, was misfired by Van Hooijdonk, but it bounced off the turf and landed high in the net. The theory that this match would indulge Celtic, however, was soon in jeopardy.

Almost immediately, Cameron drilled a goal for Hearts, off the inside of the post, after being found by Fyfe, the French forward who will now sign a short-term contract with the club. Finding their authority challenged, Celtic, despite a gradual improvement in their passing, were never able wholly to reassert themselves.

The justice of the result did not spare Burns' frustration. "At this club," he said, "we'll be through the emotional wringer before we win anything." As a glance at Ibrox will tell him, however, the Celtic manager is not a lone sufferer.

After losing at Hibernian last weekend and squandering the opportunity to defeat Aberdeen, Rangers find that their uncertainty in Europe has begun to make its presence felt in the domestic setting. A league race whose attractiveness was supposed to stem from the clash of two powers has, instead, become one of common fallibility.

HEART OF MIDLOTHIAN (4-2-2): G. Ross (capt), D. Weir, D. McPherson, A. McGovern, N. Poynton, G. Mackay (sub), D. Blackford (sub), C. Cameron, S. Salvatori (sub), P. Bruno, (80) — J. Robertson, S. Fyfe, S. Caldwell.

CELTIC (4-4-2): S. Kerr — J. McNamee, A. Subban, J. Boyd, S. Gray — S. Donnelly (sub), A. Thomson, M. P. Grant, S. Christie, M. Whelan (sub), S. McLaughlin, (80) — P. van Hooijdonk, P. Di Canio.

Referee: J. MacGillivray.

Fairclough food for thought as Stevenage slip again

Farnborough Town ... 3
Stevenage Borough ... 1

By Walter Gammie

FARNBOROUGH Town are just the sort of resilient, increasingly confident opponents that can make life awkward for champions that are hobbled by injuries and dragged down by the distractions of the qualifying rounds of the FA Cup, imposed upon 14 of the Vauxhall Conference clubs.

Profiting from the space that opened up after Stuart Beevor, the Stevenage midfielder player, had been sent off in the fourth minute, Farnborough duly hit the title-holders with two goals in two minutes after the interval, by Wingfield and Booth.

Farnborough immediately conceded a penalty converted by Webster, before wrapping up the match through Baker.

Alan Taylor, the Farnborough manager, whose side is now unbeaten in 11 matches, was delighted. "We got our season going with away wins at Woking, Rushden and Huddersfield," he said. "What pleased me most was that our home supporters were able to see our form."

Paul Fairclough, the Stevenage manager, meanwhile had to cope with the unfamiliar problems caused by consecutive defeats that have taken the number sustained this season to four compared with five all last season. Not a man given to rattling the teacups, he has much thinking to do.

He was upset by Beevor's dismissal, not by his second yellow card for a wild challenge on Harlow, but his first for shirt-tugging when Baker had just escaped caution for kicking a ball away, by an offside that was not seen before Booth scored, and, most of all, by "the individual errors and mistakes for which we are getting punished."

The puzzle is deepened by the way that the defeats at Woking and Farnborough have seen Stevenage play "better than we have for some time." The absence of Barry Hayles, their key striker — "he's been kicked to pieces," Fairclough said — with his fourth injury of the season meant that good work is not being finished.

"Perhaps it is true when they talk about climbing Everest and having to go out and climb the mountain again," Fairclough said. "It's certainly true that teams want to beat the champions and make it much harder for us."

"It might be the team is now in need of surgery and there might be a bit of cosmetic work in the next couple of weeks. Perhaps after that we might need to do major surgery. Still, I believe you need to get two points a match to take the title, and after 14 matches we've got 28 points. The Conference has been won with 75."

FARNBOROUGH TOWN (4-2-3): S. MacKenzie — J. Underwood, W. Stamp, D. Corney (capt), K. Day, S. Smith, S. Mervin — D. Robinson (sub), P. Glen, T. P. Harford, D. Harlow — S. Baker, C. Booth, P. Wingfield.

STEVENAGE BOROUGH (4-4-2): R. Winstall — K. Webster, E. Scoye, M. Smith, R. Mather — D. Vennart, S. Beevor, P. Barnwell, L. Endsley — G. Crawshaw, C. Brown.

Referee: M. Nixon.

QPR earn profit to tax Aldridge

Tranmere Rovers 2
Queens Park Rangers ... 3

By Peter Ball

THERE are few things less inspiring than a wet Sunday on the Wirral, but, after a turgid hour, a late flurry of goals raised the entertainment level in this Nationwide League first division game at Prenton Park yesterday as the rain poured down and the teams skidded and slipped across the soaking pitch. Yet although that improved the spectacle, Liverpool seemed to have had the right idea in calling the whole thing off on the other side of the Mersey.

Tranmere Rovers, in particular, seemed out of sorts. Unlike two weeks ago, when they fashioned a thrilling game with Portsmouth, not even the presence of television cameras yesterday persuaded them to raise their game. Perhaps they prefer Friday evenings.

They have now won only once, in that Friday game, in their past ten matches, and it leaves John Aldridge facing the first real challenge of his managerial career. Aldridge had a tetchy afternoon on and off the field, losing his battle with Alan McDonald on points in spite of earning a penalty, and refusing to talk to the national press afterwards. "Our passing wasn't good enough," he told local radio, "it's a worrying situation."

Queens Park Rangers, by contrast, could take satisfaction from the result and the performance. After a long wait, they have now given Stewart Houston, the manager, two victories in a week. Yesterday, they looked much the more compact, purposeful side, moving the ball forward neatly, with Sinclair and the

promising young Slade giving them a cutting edge that Tranmere lacked.

If this was to be Sinclair's last game for QPR, he contributed significantly towards securing the points, playing a part in all three goals. "I don't want him to go," Houston said, "but he's put his request in writing."

QPR began as if they were going to win with something to spare, and soon Sinclair was showing his abilities, skipping past Braman almost at will. On the first occasion he reached the byline, but then spoilt it with a poor cross.

He made no such mistake the second time, picking out Slade, who looks a bargain at £250,000 from Tottenham Hotspur. Slade made space behind the defenders and headed the ball beyond Coyne as he ventured out on a hopeless mission.

Tranmere forced their way back into an increasingly niggly game by sheer physical effort and, five minutes before the interval, drew level after Aldridge went down under McDonald's challenge. Aldridge scored after an exaggerated swagger had bemused Sommer.

When McDonald met Sinclair's corner with a firm header to put QPR back in front and Charles turned in Sinclair's deflected shot, the scoreline reflected Rangers' superiority, but Braman took his chance from another corner to produce a hectic final few minutes.

TRANSMERE ROVERS (4-4-2): D. Coyne — G. Stevens, D. Higgins, S. Yeale, G. Braman — J. McManus (sub), P. Cook, T. Henry, K. Lewis (sub), A. Merson, S. L. O'Brien, J. Bennett (sub), P. Nevin, (50) — J. Aldridge, G. Branch.

QUEENS PARK RANGERS (4-4-2): J. Sinclair — M. Gerrard, P. Brady, A. McDonald, N. Bennett — T. Sinclair, P. Murray, S. Barker, M. Bennett — D. Christie (sub), L. Charles, (50), S. Slade (sub), N. Quashie, (77).

Referee: K. Lynch.

Loftus Road float, page 48

Coppell makes his mark with vital home win

Manchester City 2
Norwich City 1

By Peter Ball

STEVE COPPELL's first home game as manager of Manchester City produced his first victory on Saturday. It also gave him an insight into the task which lies ahead. In the past year, Norwich City have had enough upheavals to make Maine Road look tranquil by comparison, but, as the league table suggests, the Norwich look a lot closer to a return to the FA Carling Premiership.

"I'd sooner be in Norwich's shoes than City's — at the moment anyway," Mike Walker, the Norwich manager, said after his side's surprising defeat, "but that may change after another 15 games."

Coppell knows only too well that it will take more than 15 games to solve City's problems. "Anybody who thinks there is going to be a quick fix, that I will go out and buy three players and it'll change overnight, is dreaming," Coppell said. "A reconstruction is needed."

At least Coppell and Phil Neal, his assistant, have be-

gun to instil some organisation and work into the shambles that they inherited. There was one telling example, late in the second half, when Sutch tried to take a throw-in near his own corner flag and four blue shirts raced to mark his targets. "Good grief, when did you last see City pressuring a team?" someone asked.

Equally, there was some quick tactical readjustment in the face of Norwich's line-up: Summerbee and Brightwell moving back to counter the wingers and McGoldrick moving in front of the back four, where he had an excellent game picking off the

Norwich runners from midfield. Manchester City, though, still needed a large helping of luck. Clough's shot took a deflection for the first goal and Polston's weak header let in Dickov for the second.

Despite the defeat, Norwich controlled the game, passing the ball easily but without creating the chances that their possession demanded. If Wassell's trip to end a surging run by Keith O'Neill had yielded a penalty at 0-0, it could have been different.

Yet with a five-point gap between Norwich and the next club, third-placed Barnsley, Walker could afford to be

philosophical. "It was probably going to be Steve Coppell's day; it was his first home game and they were up for it," he said.

"I've heard people say 'That's knocked your promotion hopes', but we're not even talking about promotion. After what's happened at this club, if we finish in the top half, we will have done well."

MANCHESTER CITY (4-4-2): A. Dible — D. Wassell, M. McGoldrick, K. Symons, N. Sammerfield, S. Lomas, N. Clough, Brightwell — G. Kirkwood (sub), J. Whelan, (80) — P. Dickov, (80).

NORWICH CITY (4-3-3): S. Gunn — D. Sutch, R. Newman, J. Polston, D. Miles (sub), K. Scott, (77) — M. McGoldrick, D. Eadie, N. Adams, N. Jones (sub), A. French, (80), K. O'Neill.

Referee: M. Lodge.

Scarborough set fair under Wadsworth's leadership

Lincoln City 1
Scarborough 1

By Keith Pike

FOR some clubs, achieving Football League status is the realisation of a dream; for others, the nightmare is just beginning. Scarborough thought that they had reached the promised land in 1987, only to stumble into a minefield. Instead, now, having survived, they may be about to prosper.

It was at the expense of Lincoln City that Scarborough became the first beneficiaries of automatic promotion to the League, so there was an admirable sense of history on Saturday, when a 1-1 draw against Lincoln at Sincil Bank elevated them to the giddy heights of fifth place in the third division of the Nationwide League.

Scarborough had put together a five-match unbeaten run thanks to a passing game that is winning friends and matches. To extend that sequence to six, they had to show their appetite for a battle against the Lincoln long-ball machine. That they succeeded without compromising their style was hugely encouraging for Mick Wadsworth, the Scarborough manager.

Optimism has been a long time coming for Scarborough. From day one, when Wolverhampton Wanderers' followers tried to dismantle their ground, they have led an inglorious, impoverished existence. Nine seasons have come and gone, eight managers have tried and failed, so, if Wadsworth has been invested with messianic qualities after just four months in charge, it is little surprise.

Their improvement under him should not be unexpected. His professional playing career may have comprised half a season with Scunthorpe United, but Bobby Robson reckoned him a good enough coach for the England Under-21 team. He has spent just £15,000, but only four of the side that he inherited started against Lincoln.

It was Stuart Hicks, one of the survivors, who headed Scarborough's 76th-minute equaliser when Lincoln's tedious offside trap was sprung. John Taylor having given Lincoln a first-half lead after Martin's incisive burst.

LINCOLN CITY (4-4-2): J. Bennett, G. Brown, K. Austin, J. Whitley — G. Akinwale, M. Hone, T. Parnham, C. Abrahams — J. Taylor, J. Martin (sub), A. Brown, (80).

SCARBOROUGH (4-3-3): J. Hicks — M. Wadsworth, G. Bennett, D. Brooks — J. Thompson (sub), J. Mitchell, (51), A. Pritchard, G. Williams.

Referee: J. Robinson.

Flynn plots return to better days at Racecourse Ground

Wrexham 2
Bournemouth 0

By Ivo Tennant

IF A manager's preference is for creating a team in his own image, then Brian Flynn is the stereotype. A small, neat and industrious Welsh midfielder player, he has brought together individuals who are pliable enough to accord to his mould. With some justification, this victory took Wrexham into fifth place in the Nationwide League second division, a position that does not flatter them.

There are hostile posters outside the Racecourse Ground denouncing Tony Blair for being a Tory, but inside this is the friendliest of clubs. Flynn, who doubtless would like to manage Wales eventually, was given the award for second division manager of the month before the kick-off. He has, as his assistant, Joe Jones, the former Liverpool full back, while John Neal, one of his predecessors, lives just across the way, should he need further advice.

At the end of the 1970s, Neal presided over Wrexham in the old second division, now known as the first, of course. With the modern generation putting together a sequence of pleasing

results, having not been beaten for seven matches, there seems no reason why they should not return to such a level this season.

What Wrexham could do with is a redeveloped stadium. As the nomenclature suggests, it belongs to the past. Derbyshire play their cricket beside an old racecourse and look how long updating their facilities has taken them. Wrexham may not be able to fill all their stands, but they would surely have a better chance if they were not playing on a three-sided ground.

Wrexham's two goals came through defensive errors. First, Skinner, a utility player, slipped past three defenders and drove his shot into the far corner. One of them should have stopped him. In the last minute, Connolly, recovered from injury and looking to be playing in a division beneath his capabilities, scored the kind of goal that Allan Clarke would have admired. Harassing Cox, the Bournemouth central defender, into a poor back-pass, he reacted far more quickly than the goalkeeper.

WREXHAM (4-4-2): A. Martin — M. McGovern (sub), B. Hughes, (80), J. Jones, S. Carter, D. Bruce — M. Chubb, W. Phillips, P. Ward, K. Russell — C. Skinner, S. Morris (sub), M. Connolly, (50).

BOURNEMOUTH (5-3-2): A. Marshall — J. Bailey (sub), D. Gordon, (80), N. Young, O. Col, C. Cox, R. Beardmore — M. Holland, S. Robinson, M. Dean (sub), M. Winstanley, (80) — S. Fletcher, M. Omerod.

Referee: B. Coddington.

Shrewsbury capitalise on distracted Eton

By John Goodbody

ONE hundred and fifty years after the old boys of Eton and Shrewsbury formed a football club at Cambridge University, the schools met last Friday in only their second competitive match.

It is part of the success of the Boodle and Dunthorne Cup, now in its fifth year, that such fixtures can take place. Two years ago, in this independent schools competition, Eton won 2-1 away.

This time, Shrewsbury, unbeaten this term, were too adventurous in attack and resilient in defence. After converting a penalty in the third minute, they were never challenged and won 2-0.

Of the southern schools, only Lancing, 3-0 winners over Charterhouse, are assured of a place in the quarter-

Grammar School and King's School, Chester, who beat Haileybury, playing in the competition for the first time, 4-0 on Saturday, are already through. The remaining four ties take place after half-term with the unbeaten Manchester GS side looking formidable.

Eton have yet to make the impact on this competition that their pedigree demands. Few schools have made a greater contribution to the history of the sport, with Old Etonians (and Old Salopians) being party to the drawing up, in the 1850s, of the first Laws of the Game.

Old Etonians have won the FA Cup twice (in 1879 and 1882), defeating Blackburn Rovers on the second occasion. However, a regular programme of fixtures at the school began only in 1930 when David Graham-Camp-

bell, captain of the game, stated in the *College Chronicle* that he was determined to promote the game. Included in that 1930 team was Guy Burgess, later to be a leading figure in Great Britain's most notorious spy scandal.

Angus Graham-Campbell, son of David and a housemaster at Eton, believes that interest in football has

college — and not only in playing. "About 20 of the 50 boys in my house watch Premiership matches," he said.

Eton are distracted from football and rugby union, which the college also plays this term, by the Field Game, which is unique to the school. It is extremely tiring, with dribbling but no passing movements.

Most of the players cluster round the ball and there is no need to look for space as there is in football. This was also a criticism of Eton's performance against Shrewsbury, where there was a lack of poise and fluency.

Eton were overrun in midfield, although Mark Dickson, the master in charge, was delighted with the Shrewsbury defence, where Jamie Leach and Alex Shah, the son

of Eton, whose pre-season tour included a 12-0 defeat by the Juventus under-21 team, went behind when Leach was fouled inside the penalty area by Richard Horne and Ben Chesters drove home the kick. Chesters and Scott Corbett were a constant threat.

In the 31st minute, Shrewsbury went further ahead after a mix-up in the Eton defence, Mark Williams scoring his first goal for the school.

In the second half, Shrewsbury lost concentration but held out against an Eton team in which Jamie Redmayne's free kicks and Jamie Woolton's runs were the most penetrative plays.

ETON (4-4-2): J. Danks, J. Woolton, R. Horne (sub), N. Davenport-Jones, (70), sub: S. Best, (50), T. Nelson, A. Marston, H. Cochrane, J. Redmayne, S. Frost, A. Lewis, O. Craig.

SHREWSBURY (5-3-2): A. Shah, J. Leach, D. Crowe, J. McCann, M. Williams, H. Duncan, A. Oia, J. P. Bates, S. Corbett (sub), A. Unghley, (57), B. Chesters.

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SAILING: CONDITIONS HELP CHALLENGE COMPETITORS TO PROGRESS WHILE A CHANGE IS AS GOOD AS A REST AT WEYMOUTH

Life's a breeze for speeding crews way down south

"THIS must be the beginning of the southeast trades." This has been a regular announcement from Chris Tibbs, our skipper, for the past week along with the cry of "more speed, more speed" as *Concert* heads off into the southern hemisphere. Now, finally, at the end of the week, we really have reached the southeast tradewinds and the sailing is superb — wonderful, fresh breezes, blue skies and seas and the feeling of eating up the miles at a great rate. The flying fish seem to get bigger and faster the further south we get, as well.

Somewhat, we seem to have missed the doldrums with only 24 hours of light winds to mark their passing. It was certainly not how I imagined it would be — none of the glassy seas and empty flapping sails that had been described. Missing out does not worry us too much, especially as I do not think all of the boats behind us have fared so well and the BT Global Challenge fleet is now very much more spread out. We have been in third place for some time now and our position in the fleet continues to play a very important part in daily life.

As well as the twice-daily radio "chat shows", which keep us in touch with the rest

Lucy Duncan enjoys crossing the Equator and finding fresh winds en route to Rio

of the fleet, we also receive six-hourly position updates from race headquarters. The incoming message is heralded by a flashing orange light on the satellite communication receiver. As this is in the galley, there are usually two or three people sitting waiting for it after meals. When other boats are getting closer, the report seems even more important than valuable sleeping hours.



Having crossed the "line" (the Equator) on Thursday, the time now seems to be passing faster than ever. We are now considerably less than 2,000 miles from Rio de Janeiro. As one of the other crew members put it, that is less than two Fastnet races.

The "crossing-the-line" ceremony was much talked about beforehand and awaited with considerable trepidation.

Chris, being the only one who had sailed across the Equator before, was Neptune, master of ceremonies, and holder of the black book from which each crew member's "crimes" were read out. Crimes varied from my being a "hack" through Matt Fletcher (one of our bowmen) having abused one of Neptune's flying fish in the night (he was actually hit on the head by it) to, worst crime of all, John Keating (ex-company director and generally good organiser) having ordered the stores for the boat and not ordered sufficient sugar. We have already run out of sugar and the skipper takes two sugars in his coffee.

The punishment for all these crimes was similar. Suffice it to say that I cannot now look at the helpings of freeze-dried Chicken Italiane in quite the same light as I did before. It is not the ideal hair shampoo.

Apart from the interlude of "crossing the line", we have all pretty much settled into our routines of on-watch and off-watch. Although we now have fresher breezes on deck, it is still extremely hot down below and can be quite difficult to sleep. So much so that three members of the crew dozed off from their stuffy cabins to sleep on top of the sails in the sail-loose — the only place in the boat where any air was circulating at all.

When it is this hot, it is very hard to imagine ever being cold. The sight of half the crew in swimwear and the other half trying on dry suits for size in readiness for the Southern Ocean brought the contrast vividly home. I think almost everyone, if they are honest, has some anxiety about the Southern Ocean, but at the moment it is staying in the back of our minds.

We plan to continue to enjoy this first leg, hope for a local becalming to affect Group 4 and Toshiba Wave Warrior and then finish as well as possible.



Williams squeezes out Lawrence Mead, from Ashford, Kent, during the national match racing championships

Childerley returns refreshed

By Edward Gorman
SAILING CORRESPONDENT

STUART CHILDERLEY, who last year retired from grand prix sailing, showed that a rest from the rigours of top international competition has done him no harm at all with a resounding win in the final of the BT/RYA national match-racing championships at Weymouth yesterday.

Childerley, sailing with Hugh Styles, Tim Powell, his former Soling crew, and Adam May, never looked threatened in a championship in which the top eight seeds were beaten by the end of the quarter-finals.

Many of the seeds, including Ben Vines, the former champion, and Andy Beadsworth, the title-holder, looked ring-rusty coming into the competition for the first time in the fourth round on Thursday. As he was unable to sail in his local qualifier earlier in the year because of family business commitments, Childerley was admitted as a wild card and benefited from sailing from the beginning of the final

series, held on Portland harbour.

In the fourth round, he disposed of the Jono Pank from Norwich, the No 8 seed, 3-0, and then progressed to the last eight, where he came up against Beadsworth, his old rival. In the end, it was another easy win for Childerley, who prevailed 3-1 to avenge his defeat by Beadsworth in the Soling Olympic qualifier last year.

Beadsworth was happy to admit that he was unable to match the superior crew work on Childerley's boat in the strong southwesterly breeze, which made the Beneteau First Class 8 a handful. "We were a bit shabby," he said. "Our crew work was not sharp. Stuart sailed well and we were a bit unlucky with some umpire calls."

After whitewashing Andy Green 3-0 in the semi-finals, Childerley faced Steve Tylecote, from Maidenhead, in the final yesterday. Tylecote, who finished third in the Torquay qualifier, had earlier beaten Ian Williams, the former youth match-racing champion, from Exmouth, 3-0, in the other semi-final.

As the breeze built to more than 25 knots, Childerley produced a more fluent performance and better boat speed to win the first race easily, despite having lost the start. In the second race, he managed to inflict a penalty on Tylecote in the pre-start and then got into the groove much quicker to take an early three-length lead.

With Tylecote struggling to control his Beneteau, Childerley's big-boat experience helped him as he again managed to keep his boat flatter and faster up the beat to be 30sec ahead at the mark.



Childerley: fluent

Coming down to the leeward mark for the first time, his spinnaker halyard broke, but Tylecote was unable to capitalise as he lost control of his own spinnaker in a broach. In the end, Childerley won by almost one leg.

With the gale continuing to build, the best-of-five final was abandoned to give Childerley, from Southampton, a 2-0 victory. "We've certainly had a good few days," he said afterwards. "It may be the break from sailing. We were all fresh to it and just worked hard to make sure we were able to get round any problems we came across."

Childerley, who has represented Great Britain twice at the Olympic Games in the First class, has no plans to return to full-time sailing despite winning the three events that he has entered this year.

The sail-off for third and fourth places was reduced to one race and was won by Green after a close-fought tacking duel against Williams.

Results, page 39

SQUASH

Jackman in groove but England lose final

FROM COLIN MCCUTILLAN
IN PETALING JAYA
MALAYSIA

CASSANDRA JACKMAN, from Norfolk, who came close to stealing the World Open crown here last weekend, almost triggered England's battered squad into a surprise victory over Australia in the women's world team championship on Saturday.

It has been an encouraging fortnight for Jackman, 23, whose game has developed new levels of movement and fresh racket skills since she and Alex Cowie, her long-time personal coach, brought in David Pearson, the England national coach, to break what was becoming a log-jam between a brilliant junior career and threatening stagnation at the senior level.

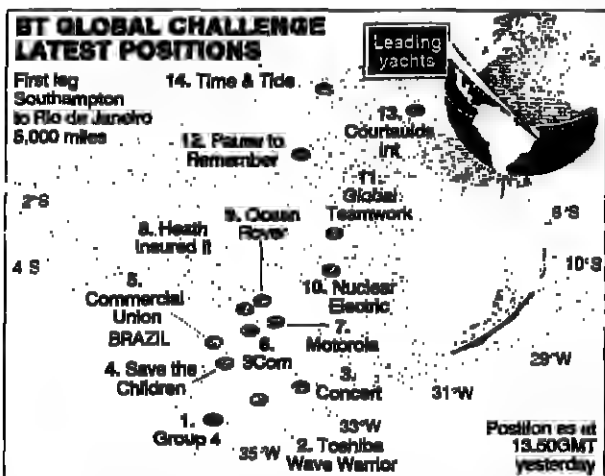
For a game and a half of the World Open final, Jackman matched the extraordinary power and pace of Sarah FitzGerald, the new champion. On Saturday, she defeated Michelle Martin, the deposed triple champion and still world No 1, 9-3, 4-9, 5-9, 9-7, 9-7 in the 74-minute first-strung rubber of the team final against the top-seeded defending champions.

FitzGerald buried Linda Charman, the world No 15, from Sussex, at second string, easing back her ferocious assault only when a 28-minute, 9-0, 9-1, 9-3 victory was assured in the third game.

There was just a moment in the deciding third string rubber when Fiona Gieves, from Gloucester, the world No 9, looked capable of turning the tide when she held 8-7 and game ball in the third game against Liz Irving, the most experienced player in the field — but the moment passed in a blitz of backhand attacking shots that took Irving, and Australia, to a third successive tie, 9-4, 9-4, 10-8.

Charman and Gieves were late replacements for Sue Wright and Jane Martin, higher ranked players, who were injured before the championship. "They did brilliantly well," Cowie, who is also the England team manager, said.

Results, page 39



MILES TO RIO DE JANEIRO: 1. Group 4 (895); 2. Toshiba Wave Warrior (929); 3. *Concert* (943); 4. *Save the Children* (1,036); 5. *Commercial Union* (1,039); 6. *3Com* (1,084); 7. *Motorola* (1,077); 8. *Heath Insured II* (1,112); 9. *Ocean Rover* (1,117); 10. *Nuclear Electric* (1,173); 11. *Global Teamwork* (1,253); 12. *Pause to Remember* (1,405); 13. *Courtalade Int* (1,489); 14. *Time & Tide* (1,537).

THE TIMES

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CHANGING TIMES

SPORTS LETTERS

FA must send out clear signal Hill worthy of accolades

From Mr Jonathan Adelman

Sir, One would hope that the much publicised gestures made by the Aston Villa goalkeeper, Mark Bosnich, during his team's defeat at Tottenham (reports, October 14, 15) were made out of crass stupidity and insensitivity and not out of deliberate provocation or spite. His subsequent apologies suggest that to be the case.

If the Football Association, however, truly wants to take a stand against anti-Semitism, racism and all other forms of ethnic antagonism in and around football stadiums, the nation's footballers should be told that they must act as responsible role models to the thousands who idolise them.

When a player acts as Bosnich did, the punishment, whether in the form of suspension, fine or educational programme, must send a clear signal to all that whether the racist imagery is acted out by riotous spectators at the international match between Ireland and England at Lansdowne Road or ignorant players at White Hart Lane, it is totally unacceptable.

The Football Association will, no doubt, act responsibly in this matter. After all, the

charge of bringing the game into disrepute has rarely been so apt. However, the words of David Mellor, the MP and radio presenter, were possibly as irresponsible as the gestures themselves and may have caused similar offence.

Throughout his phone-in show shortly after the match, he consistently played down the seriousness of the gestures and even belittled a caller who was trying to explain that the gestures had offended him.

Mr Mellor appeared to find the episode amusing and certainly not a serious matter worthy of rebuke. This is startling considering his connections to the Government which oversaw the passing of legislation designed to combat exactly that kind of behaviour.

He appears to have undermined both his own Government's policies and the attempts of the Football Association to "kick racism out of football".

The sad conclusion must be that Mr Mellor, like Bosnich, deserves blame for insensitivity and while the latter will be held accountable it is doubtful that Mr Mellor will.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN ADELMAN,
222 Grays Inn Road, WCI.

Sleep inducer

From Mr Alfred Rose

Sir, Since Simon Barnes ("Golf movie fails its screen test", *Midweek View*, October 9) purchased a horse and learnt the art of controlling it, he has become blinkered in his outlook.

I had no interest in horses until, ten years ago, I met my wife, who had just become a junior European event rider. At the same time, I was in the early stages of learning golf, which I have pursued doggedly since. As in most relationships, one is often asked to support one's partner in their chosen pastimes.

The first phase of eventing, as Barnes would know, is the art of dressage, which I believe him to have admired in his previous writing. Dare I say that, if he suggests that watching golf is mundane, then

watching dressage is the most sleep-inducing pastime that I have ever witnessed.

I cannot believe that Ryder Cup viewing, or the last round of a major golf championship, is less stimulating to a sports enthusiast than watching a dressage rider perform a "flying change" or "half pass".

The uninterested spectator is placed in front of both. I believe even he would still prefer to view the scenery of a manicured golf course to that of a dull, artificial menage.

Yours faithfully,
ALFRED ROSE,
The Manor House,
Fillingham,
Gainsborough,
Lincolnshire.

Sports letters
may be sent
by fax to
0171 782 5211

From Mr Peter Murray

Sir, I welcome your leading article ("A good win for a good man", October 14) following Darren Hill's world championship win.

My interest in motor racing is minimal but I salute Hill's achievement, especially because of his good humour and the refreshingly dignified, modest manner in which he conducts himself.

In his father's day most British sporting champions were courteous and gracious in victory — and defeat. Over the years, however, there has

Muddled rules

From Mr L. D. Kennedy

Sir, I am intrigued to note that five players contracted to the London Irish rugby union club are able to represent their provinces in the Heineken European Cup and then return to London Irish to play in Courage league games.

Ireland was allowed to enter the European Cup on a provincial basis because it was considered that its club teams were not strong enough to enter on an individual basis.

Surely, therefore, any players representing the provinces should be drawn from Irish clubs, not English clubs. If Jim Staples and Keith Wood, two Irish internationals at present playing with Harlequins, decided to play for Ulster, would

they be eligible to play for Ulster against Harlequins in the European Cup match and if Ulster did not reach the final stages of the competition, would they then return and play for Harlequins in the same competition?

In all serious competitions, there is a minimum qualification and a minimum registration period. It needs to be explained why one Saturday players can appear for one club and another Saturday can appear for a different club (which is what the Irish provinces are in the context of the European Cup) and can then return to the club to which they are contracted and which pays their wages.

Yours truly,
L. D. KENNEDY,
Fairfield,
9 Dulwich Village, SE21.

Hazards ahead

From Mr Gordon Davies

Sir, I suspect that Mr Corbett (Sports Letters, October 14) has exposed only the tip of the iceberg in the problems that may arise from Wimbledon's proposed move out of London.

The logical implication of the Bosman judgment is that there should be no bar to employment for a professional sportsman within the European Union. Consequently, Germans, Frenchmen or Italians could be playing for England in the next European football championship. The English rugby team could win the five nations' championship

without any Englishmen in the team.

The problem with Fifa is not that the British teams would be forced to play as the United Kingdom. Rather it is that the European teams would be forced to play under the auspices of the European Union. This change could apply to many other sports. Already, the Ryder Cup is contested by Europe, not by a British team.

Making sport professional, together with the Bosman case and the creation of the European Cup, may have hitherto unforeseen consequences.

Yours faithfully,
GORDON DAVIES,
5 Farguhar Street, Hertford.

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RUGBY UNION: EUROPEAN COMPETITION EXPOSES DEMAND FOR GREATER SKILL FROM BRITISH TEAMS

Leicester need to learn quick lesson

Leicester 43
Scottish Borders 3

BY MARK SOLISTER

THERE has been much talk in recent weeks of steep learning curves in rugby. For the Scots, it has come via the cold draught of exposure to the rarified atmosphere of the Heineken Cup, a quantum leap forward from the humdrum sterility of the national leagues. For their part, Leicester, now the only unbeaten side in pool B, are in the first year of the Bob Dwyer finishing school and the interim report as they stand reads: "Should do better."

Granted, they beat the Scottish Borders with plenty to spare, but they made hard work of it as they wrestled with the lessons that Dwyer had been teaching before his departure to Australia on business. They huffed and puffed for half an hour before finally blowing away the spirited but ultimately lightweight challenge of the Borders, who, after their midweek upset over Llanelli, privately fancied a repeat at Welford Road, particularly against a side showing seven changes from that which defeated Leicester and one lacking the calming influence of Dean Richards.

Rowntree and Cockerill, two of the vaunted front row, were also rested as Leicester rotated their squad before the challenges of Pau and Llanelli, matches that will determine the outcome of the group. The Borders, though, could not live with their equally physical replacements, West and Jelley, while Garforth was the rock upon which they foundered.

Dwyer, returning after five weeks away, conceded that the manner of victory "would not win a World Cup". "We weren't as positive as we could have been," he said. "We were doubtful about what we should do, which is a sure sign of a situation where we are trying to change the style and culture of the play at Leicester. It takes time for people to develop confidence in that, but, if we can rack up 40 points each week, I won't mind."



Wingham, the Leicester flanker, exerts plenty of power as he forces his way through a determined Borders defence at Welford Road

"There's a definite improvement in skill and I'm really encouraged by the enthusiasm the players have shown in approaching change. We've got players who are like sponges wanting and waiting to soak up new things, new ideas."

The Borders knew that they had to counter Martin Johnson and Matt Poole, the Leicester lineout experts, and varied their options accordingly, moving Carl Hogg to the front of the line in a largely unsuccessful attempt to dis-

rupt Johnson, the England international, in particular.

By the end of a staccato first quarter, littered with 13 penalties, the Borders had grown in confidence; they had led after a sixth-minute penalty goal by Gary Parker, their forwards were spoiling effectively, the backs were lively if lacking real penetration and a muddled Leicester began to question themselves. They were so disoriented that the crowd of only 4,609 began calling for the absent Richards.

They were not helped by a

lack of direction at half back and the decision to entrust Rob Liley, as opposed to John, his prolific elder brother, with the kicking duties. The former, at stand-off, missed three easy penalties, but then rediscovered his form by landing six out of his next seven attempts, five of them conversions as Leicester gradually built momentum.

As is often the case, the match turned on a moment of controversy — a try by Eric Miller, who looked yards off-side when intercepting

Redpath's pass to Chalmers after 34 minutes. Underwood added a second in time added for injury to Cammy Murray, who dislocated his shoulder, and suddenly it was 14-3 and Leicester breathing easy.

However, it was not until the last eight minutes of the game, when they scored three quick-fire tries against rapidly-tiring opponents through Poole, John Liley and West, to add to Hackney's earlier sparkling effort, that Leicester belatedly stamped their authority on a match which was

always theirs for the taking.

SCORERS: Leicester: Tries: Miller, Underwood, Hackney, J. Liley, Poole, West. Conversions: R. Liley (9). Penalty goal: R. Liley. Scottish Borders: Penalty goal: Parker.

LEICESTER: J. Liley, S. Hackney, S. Poole, N. Maloney, R. Underwood, R. Liley, A. Hasty, D. Jelley, D. West, D. Garforth, E. Miller, M. Johnson, M. Poole, O. Wingham, W. Johnson, M. Miller replaced by W. Drake-Lee (40m).

SCOTTISH BORDERS: C. Turnbull (Hawick), A. Stanger (Hawick), S. Nichol (Melrose), C. Murray (Hawick), G. Parker (Melrose), C. Chalmers (Melrose), S. Redpath (Melrose), N. McIlroy (Laird Forest), S. Brotherton (Melrose), S. Ferguson (Peebles), S. Barrell (Kelso), S. Allen (Melrose), C. Hogg (Melrose), N. Broughton (Melrose), R. McLeish (Boroughmuir), Murray replaced by D. Bain (Melrose, 26). Replaced: G. Stevenson (Wales).

Frenchmen fail to keep their tempers at bay

Llanelli 31
Pau 15

BY ALISON KERVIN

THE Heineken Cup is set to deliver lessons in human behaviour and cultural interaction as revealing as those it teaches about rugby. On Saturday, the question was what would happen when the passion and volatility of the French is exposed to the chilling atmosphere of Stradey Park, Llanelli. The answer was a first half of brilliant, inventive, sparkling rugby and a second half of brutality, brawling, dismissals and general mayhem, a decline all the more shameful because of the sheer brilliance of that first half.

Llanelli played some outstanding rugby, and when the French found themselves under the pressure of defeat, they lost all semblance of discipline and resorted to disgraceful tactics. Steve Lander, the referee, kept control of the match by sending off three players in the second-half battle and, when he blew the final whistle, police moved on to the pitch to escort the remaining Frenchmen through crowds of incensed Welsh supporters.

Yet, if the second half will be remembered for its violence, the first will live long in the memory for its sheer entertainment value. Franco Botica was in outstanding form, using his speed off the mark and quick decision-making to create time and space for the backs, enabling them to make the most of Neil Boobyer's skill in the centre. Rupert Moon also had a brilliant game, linking well with Botica and with the tough, relentless Llanelli forwards.

Yet Pau started the game in style, with all the grace and flair of the great French sides. The first try was theirs after the pack gained ground with a rolling maul then pushed the ball out to Brusque. Llanelli responded with a try by Boobyer before Pau scored

the try of the match, involving seven pairs of hands before Sebastian Claverie ran in.

Botica made a decisive break to put Stephen Jones, the teenage full back, over for Llanelli's next score, before Moon went over just before the break to take Llanelli into a clear lead.

The trouble started brewing early in the second half, as Pau made a brave attempt to use tactical substitutions, which are not legal until November. Lander rightly rejected their efforts and, soon after, with Pau 24-12 down, tempers started to flare.

Nicolas Bacque was the first to walk after punching Steve Ford. He was followed swiftly by Iwan Jones. The third sending off was the most dramatic, Frederic Torossian ordered off the field for stamping before, as he left the pitch, swearing and spitting at the jeering Llanelli crowd. For their troubles, Bacque re-

Full results and league tables Page 39

ceived a 30-day ban, Torossian and Jones a 60-day ban.

The second-half feuding left little time for rugby, but there was an exchange of penalty goals and a try by Botica that sealed the victory.

Garth Jenkins, the Llanelli coach, was furious with the antics of Pau. "It's typical of the French mentality," he said. Henri Nieto, the Pau manager, left Llanelli promising to make a formal complaint about refereeing interpretations.

SCORERS: Llanelli: Tries: Boobyer, S. Jones, Moon, Botica. Conversions: Botica (4). Penalty goal: Botica. Pau: Tries: Brusque, Claverie. Conversion: Auzagne. Penalty goal: Auzagne.

LLANELLI: S. Jones, A. Richards, M. Wintle, N. Boobyer, G. Evans, F. Botica, R. Moon, R. Jones, R. McIlroy, E. John, C. Wyatt, S. Ford, V. Cooper, I. Jones, J. Williams. Cooper replaced by P. Morris (64m); R. Jones replaced by R. Baine (76).

PAU: N. Brusque, S. Claverie, D. Danzeau, C. Pailh, Y. Marin, D. Auzagne, F. Torossian, P. Maurin, J. Ray, I. Thap-Capelle, S. Neth, Y. Marthe, A. Lagarde, N. Bacque, F. Rolles, M. Moun replaced by S. Bria (57); Rolles replaced by P. Bria (58); Lagarde replaced by J. Cadea (68). Replaced: S. Lander (England).

Congratulations and thanks from all at BT to the 46,000 swimmers and the 520 pools who participated in the 1996 *BT Swimathon. Together you have raised a magnificent £1.38 million for this year's charities.



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Perry Cleveland-Peck is exhilarated to find that Icarus has nothing on him when it comes to flying

Take a run down a hill and you're up in the air

Six steps, a running jump and I was airborne. Catching a faint summer breeze, the ground dropped away and, like Icarus, I found myself soaring above the tree tops and across the hazy sky. As if through a camera lens, the Surrey landscape zoomed away as I climbed, and I was left, breathless, with the wind whistling in my ears and a bird's eye view.

An offshoot of parachuting, paragliding has been around since the 1960s. Over the years, developments in gliding technology have made the sport a lot safer and it is now practised by people of all ages.

To start paragliding, you have to join a club. There is no law (as yet) that stops you from simply buying a glider and launching yourself from your nearest grassy knoll, but it would be exceedingly dangerous and irresponsible to do so. Only the paragliding clubs can provide the essential aviation and meteorological training and only clubs have access to the best take-off and landing sites. Furthermore, it is only clubs that can keep you up-to-date with the various by-laws and restrictions that apply.

I went to the Green Dragons Paragliding Club, tucked away at the foot of the North Downs at Woldingham, Surrey, where Andy Shaw, the proprietor and former world paragliding accuracy champion, was there to show me the ropes, or risers, as they are called. After a detailed lecture, in which Shaw explained some basic meteorology and the safety aspects, we set off to the top of Hoving's Ridge to send me up and away.

There are several methods of launching a paraglider — including being towed into the air or strapping on a set of motorised propellers — but the most favoured involves running down a steep incline with the glider spread out behind you. In the right conditions, the canopy will fill with air after just a few paces and you will find your legs flailing at the ground as you take off for the heavens.

Donning a helmet and wearing a tough harness with a padded seat, I was attached by metal clips, called maylons, to my paraglider. The canopy was laid out evenly on the ground behind me and Shaw

asked me to take hold of the risers and run down the hill. Once the canopy was inflated, I was to let go of the risers and steer with the webbing control straps. Now, this task sounds simple but, in practice, a half-filled paragliding canopy is an unwieldy beast and my first attempt was brought to a hasty conclusion with me cooed in nylon, enjoying a mouthful of earth.

Resigned to a long afternoon's work and looking a little disillusioned, Shaw said: "You didn't push on the risers fast enough. Perry." Deter-

SPORT FOR ALL



mined to prove that there was an aviator in me somewhere, I extracted the grass from between my teeth and walked back up the hill. My second try proved a little more fruitful. Having managed to get the ballooning canopy over my head and evenly spread out above me, I glided down the hill at the impressive altitude of three or four feet before crashing at the bottom.

Absolutely ecstatic, I shouted to the world: "I was flying — did you see, I was flying." Shaw did not seem to share my enthusiasm. After the third go, I considered myself a seasoned fly-boy experienced in low-level paragliding passes. However, it was not until the last flight of the afternoon that I fully appreciated the thrill of paragliding as a sport.

The wind had got up and I was somewhat perturbed by the breeze coming off the face of the hill below me. Throughout the afternoon, I had been taking off a little higher up the hill each time and by now I was almost at the top. With the adrenaline pumping, I set off once again. Above me, the canopy swelled and I



Getting the hang of it: Perry Cleveland-Peck picks up the gliding canopy and the essential lines, removes the earth from his mouth and walks back up the hill to try again



Ready for take-off: the trick to gliding is to succeed in bringing up the huge canopy behind you so that it billows out evenly above your head

was in the air after a handful of strides. A sudden gust caught my glider and I soared much higher than before. I was terrified. I felt the canopy lift me higher and higher and for a moment I thought that I was not going to stop. Like a kite, I climbed, and I froze in my harness, too scared to move.

The wind subsided and I came to a stop a few hundred feet off the ground — not much — but for me it felt like miles. I sat in my harness and attempted to take stock. The view was magnificent. The undulating Downs seemed like a mere fold in the Surrey countryside and in the distance I picked out the East Grinstead railway line as it

flickered its way past the M25 and on towards London. By now, I was losing altitude and a large oak loomed in my flight-path. A gentle tug on the left control line brought me out of its way and I looked about for a landing site.

Opting for a field, I prepared myself for impact as the ground came up fast. About three feet off the ground, I pulled hard on both the control lines to collapse the canopy, as Shaw had showed me, and landing was like stepping off a bar stool.

Shaw, who has been flying since he was a child, enthused: "When you get into the air, it's a dream, knowing that it is just your skill and knowledge that has got you there."

Cut out the leg work

Flying for Peter Bruce has never been better. When he wanted to paraglide in the old days, he would take his turn with scores of others at Devil's Dyke on the South Downs.

Since June, however, just taking five or six steps in a farmer's field has been sufficient to get him airborne. The change is down to a 14 kilo. cc engine that is strapped to his back and gives him enough thrust to get off the ground. It must be said that the engine's propeller is enclosed in a cage.

Paragliding or, in the official language, foot-launched powered gliding, became exempt from requirements covering aircraft certification, registration and pilot licensing four months ago. So paramotoring can justifiably claim to be the newest sport in Great Britain.

"The motor has given me more opportunities to fly because I'm no longer completely dependent on weather conditions in order to take off," Bruce said. "When in the air, I keep the engine running to maintain height as that, even if there is no thermal activity, I can stay up." He did his training at Sky Systems in Sussex.

Unpowered paragliders generally make use of two types of lift, both to take off and to stay in the air. Thermal lift is caused by hot air rising and dynamic lift is caused by air being deflected upwards from a hill, mountain or sand dune.

When Bruce wants to take off now, he simply starts the two-stroke engine, inflates his paraglider by running a few steps and then squeezes the hand-throttle (similar to a bicycle brake) to increase the power. Paramotoring is best suited to calm or light-wind days. Strong or gusty winds can make paramotoring and paragliding hazardous.

Bruce's engine cost £3,500, has an electric start and gives him a top speed of between 20 and 25 miles per hour. Fuel can last long enough for almost four hours of flying.

A number of paragliding schools now



Have equipment will fly

offer courses in motorgliding. Northern Paramotoring, near York, for instance, holds nine or ten-day courses, at £50 a day, for those who have never been paragliding, but experienced paragliders can convert to paramotoring in as little as two days.

FACT BOX

- Northern Paramotoring, Gablehurst, Church Lane, Skelton, York, YO3 6NT: 01904 470092.
- Sky Systems Ltd, Edburton, West Sussex, BN9 9LL: 01273 857700. Ten-day novice course: £499. Two-day course: £199.
- British Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association, Old School Room, Loughborough Road, Leicester, LE4 5PJ: 0116-261 1322.

Training at Northern Paramotoring

can be free if a new paramotor (engine and paraglider) is purchased from the school. During the first four or five days of the longer course, you concentrate on learning to paraglide. There are lessons in basic meteorology, principles of flight and air law. You also practise launch techniques and then you will make flights of up to 300ft in altitude, including 180-degree turns and accurate landings.

Ian Currer, at Northern Paramotoring, explains that "by the fifth day we should be able to start paramotoring. We teach throttle and engine management, take-off techniques, simple circuits, emergency procedures. Then finally there is a 30-kilometre flight which will include navigation skills". There is also a written exam.

Currer, the author of *Touching Cloudbase: The Complete Guide to Paragliding*, warns people that paramotoring without proper instruction is very dangerous. "You must be trained by a qualified instructor," he said. "In order to get insurance, your insurance will cost about £250 a year."

The exemption from the Civil Aviation Authority states that the operator of a paramotor must be the owner. This means that you cannot hire them. So, before you come on a course, you will have to buy one. A back-pack engine will cost between £3,000 and £4,000. A paraglider costs between £1,500 and £2,500.

Jolyon Harrison, who was involved in drawing up the training syllabus for paramotoring, said: "When you are paragliding, there is a lot to think about in terms of air currents and where you are going to land. Having an engine on your back makes flying that much more relaxing and allows you to land where you want to."

CHRISTIAN DYMOND

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

The declarer found a good hold-up play on this hand from the recent junior European championship, but West was on the ball.

Dealer North	North-South vulnerable	IMPs
<p>♠ AK82</p> <p>♥ 10978</p> <p>♦ AQJ7</p> <p>♣ QJ94</p> <p>♥ 1092</p> <p>♦ K</p> <p>♣ 6532</p>	<p>♠ 87</p> <p>♥ KJ543</p> <p>♦ A852</p> <p>♣ 10</p>	

Contract: 3 NT by South

East's 2 NT was the Unusual No-trump convention, showing at least 5-5 in the two lowest-ranked unbid suits. I cannot see the objection to bidding One Heart. South (Sundstrom, the Swedish player) would have done better to double Three Hearts, collecting 800 on a trump lead from North.

Sundstrom embarked upon 3 NT by letting West's ten-nine of hearts hold the first two tricks. If declarer wins at trick one or two, he has to cross to dummy with a club to lead the ten of diamonds. When West wins the king, he can continue hearts, establishing the suit with East's ace of diamonds still intact as an entry.

After taking two heart tricks, the Turkish West rightly concluded that there was no point in continuing hearts — that would give the declarer eight tricks, and he might be able to establish a diamond for the ninth. Notice that, in this variation, East should play the jack if declarer leads the ten of

diamonds from dummy — declarer has to judge whether to put on the queen.

West switched to the queen of spades (a passive club exit would have been more accurate). Now, even if the declarer pins East's spade pipe by winning the king of spades and subsequently leading the ten from hand, he cannot set up nine tricks without letting the defence score a spade and two diamond tricks. To go with the two heart tricks that they have already taken.

□ The tenth World Bridge Olympiad began yesterday on the Greek island of Rhodes. The British Open team have made an excellent start. A 22-8 victory over Kenya was followed by a 25-1 defeat of Cyprus. Most of the favourites in their group have also started well, but the United States lost their opening match to Israel 17-13.

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

DIDYMTIS
a. Second sight
b. Inflammation
c. Double vision

REDHIBITION
a. Showing off
b. A retrospective exhibition
c. Nullification

OXYMORON
a. A useful idiot
b. Silver/tin compound
c. A contradiction
THAUMATURGE
a. A passion to be popular
b. A rich income
c. A miracle-worker

Answers on page 45

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Wrexham

Next to Hastings, the international tournament at Wrexham is becoming established as the No 2 all-play-all grandmaster tournament in Great Britain. This year, the ten-player field includes Chris Ward, the British champion, and grandmasters Lars Karlsson, from Sweden, Nigel Davies, from Wales, and Istvan Csom, from Hungary. The tournament is category seven on the World Chess Federation scale, with seven out of nine being necessary for a grandmaster result and 5½ for an international master performance. The event finishes on October 24. After four rounds, Ward had seized the lead with 3½ points, defeating Karlsson, the early leader, in the fourth round. Here is how Karlsson demolished Wales' sole grandmaster in the second round.

White: Lars Karlsson (Swe)
Black: Nigel Davies (Wales)
Owens Corning International Wrexham, October 1996

English Opening

- 1 Nf3 c5
- 2 g3 b5
- 3 Bg2 Bb7
- 4 Bb1 g6
- 5 c4 Bg7
- 6 e3 Nf6
- 7 d4 cxd4
- 8 exd4 d5
- 9 Ne5 O-O
- 10 Nc3 Na6
- 11 cxd5 Ne7
- 12 d6 Nxd5
- 13 dxe7 Qxe7
- 14 Re1 Qc7
- 15 Nb5 Qxb5
- 16 Qg5 a6
- 17 Nc3 Nc3
- 18 bxc3 Bxc2
- 19 Bx6 Bx6
- 20 Kg2 Qc6
- 21 Qf3 Rxc6
- 22 a4 Rc7



Isle of Man

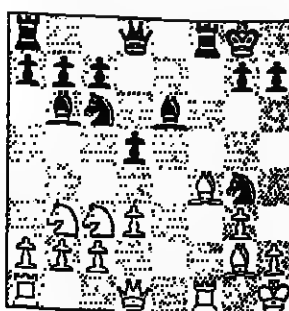
If Wrexham and Hastings are the top all-play-all tournaments in the United Kingdom at the moment, the Monarch Assurance Open, in the Isle of Man, has replaced the Lloyds Bank Masters as the leading open competition. The event this year, which finished earlier this month, was won by Vladislav Tkachiev, the Kazakhstani grandmaster, with seven out of nine. Other leading scores were Baburin (Ireland) 6½; Hebden and Hodgson (Ireland) 6½; Hebden and Hodgson (Ireland) 6½; Hebden and Hodgson (Ireland) 6½; Hebden and Hodgson (Ireland) 6½.

□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Lima-Shulman, Erevan Olympiad, 1996. In this position, White came up with the idea of 1. Nxd5, the point being to meet 1... Bxd5 with 2. Qxg4 winning a pawn. Can you spot the flaw in his logic?



Solution on page 45

Sports shops booming on back of new team strips

REGULAR viewers of Sky Sports know "Every 1's A Winner". Not Choclate's 1978 hit single, only too well. The familiar guitar line leads into the advertisement for JJB Sports, offering discounts on football boots, replica team strips and the like.

The company — whose founder, David Whelan, launched the business with the compensation that he received after breaking his leg playing for Blackburn Rovers in the 1980 FA Cup Final — is one of the new breed of sports retailers that are now starting to dominate high streets in Great Britain. Nick Bubb, a retailing expert at Mess-Person, the stockbrokers, estimates that sports retailing has an annual turnover of more than £500 million and is growing at between 25 and 30 per cent a year. It is dominated by five retailers and five brands — Nike, Adidas, Reebok, Umbro and Puma — which are said to have 85 per cent of the clothing and shoe market.

JJB, a good old sports retailer, selling everything from cricket boxes to Newcastle United leisurewear, floated on the stock market nearly two years ago. This week, it will be joined by its confusingly similar sounding rival, JD Sports. JD, founded by John Wardle and David Makin, inhabits the fashion end of the market, only slightly touched upon by JJB. The differences between the companies are marked enough for Duncan Sharpe, a director of JJB and the son-in-law of David Whelan, to say that he would be quite happy for the two to have shops situated next to each other on the high street.

So what has transformed this market? For a start, there is the massive growth of replica shirts. Sharpe reckons that increasing safety inside

THE BUSINESS OF SPORT



and around football grounds means that people who used to hide their team scarves under their jumpers, for fear of being beaten up, now happily wear gaudy shirts emblazoned with "Bergkamp 10".

Teams have also cottoned on to this, having three strips, which means that a new one is launched every eight months. The latest, available in the shops this week, is a yellow strip for Arsenal. The retailers reckon to pocket at least £10 for every shirt sold. Manchester United leads this market, selling twice as many shirts as Liverpool, its nearest rival, with Newcastle United and Arsenal a little behind.

Then there is the growth of hiking boots. Brands like Timberland, Caterpillar and Kickers have moved into this market, so much so that their shoes are often not sold in conventional shoe stores, only in sports and specialist shops. Shoppers of all ages, not merely teenagers, are now getting used to going to JJB rather than Saxeons to buy their fashionable footwear.

Retailers are now looking towards other sports to provide the new trend. The growth could come from rapidly expanding minority sports, such as basketball and ice hockey. So, when your children ask you for a Sheffield Sharks training top, do not say that you were not warned.

JASON NISSE

Casey fishes on the right side of the law

The winner of the British pike fishing championships tapped an unlikely source. Brian Clarke reports

The channels that the Dutch built to drain the flat landscape as straight as a pest-cutter's spade. From the surface, every dug inch, every monotonous mile, looks the same. Below the surface, as every local knows, they are not. Beneath the bland, grey ripples, there are shelves and weed beds, obstructions and deeps, places that hold food and that are attractive to fish. Roach, rudd and bream abound. Amid the grazers and nibblers, the predators lurk — headed by the pike.

Every local angler who gathered in the hall in Chatteris, Cambridgeshire, for the draw on Saturday, knew where these places were. So, when the draw was being made for pike in the Angling Times/Mustad British pike fishing championships, all the smart local money was on the pike near Child's Bridge, just outside the town.

Among the men — and women — who make it to the finals, tensions and ambitions run high. Big money is at stake. There are wagers on pike, on individuals, the lot.

Child's Bridge is on the Forty Foot Drain, a water that, for all that it might have been named by a municipal computer, is one of the best angling venues in the region.

The water near it has more than its fair share of places attractive to small fish and so holds more than its fair share of pike. Though nearly 500 anglers from all over Great Britain were fishing, though they were spaced out over nearly nine miles of the Forty Foot and the nearby Sixteen Foot, it was the pike on the bridge reach that attracted most bets.

In such places, Law No 3 of angling usually prevails. Everyone knows that the best pike, if they go to a good local angler with intimate knowledge of them, are likely to



Charlie Robertson, at eight years old the youngest competitor taking part in the British pike fishing championships, displays his 12lb catch

produce the winner. Even someone from the other end of the country, if they know what they are about, is likely to succeed on the best pike.

When Joan Cole, a local angler who fishes the drain for pike week-in and week-out, drew peg 381, she became an early favourite. Peg 381 was one of the Child's Bridge hotspots. Cole had taken the prize for the top woman entrant last year, from a swim just a couple of pike along.

It soon looked as though she was home and dry. Half-an-hour into the match, she had runs on each of her two rods. She got both fish. The first weighed 4lb 12oz, the second was nearly 10lb bigger. She rebaited one rod and cast

out. While she was re-baiting the other, she had a third run — and landed a pike of 8lb 10oz. It was one of the fastest starts that the championship had seen. Law No 3 was coming good.

Of course, there is also Law No 2. This says that a good angler on a modest peg can beat a good angler on a good peg, if the modest peg is fishing above its form and the fishing on the good peg dies early. Of course, the man on the modest peg will have to graft, but he can still win.

The fishing on Joan Cole's peg died after her third run. It was about the time that the fish in front of Leslie Moses, a few hundred yards or so away, were just coming on.

Peg 398 is not a bad peg, but it is on the periphery of the hotspots. From time to time, it has produced a decent fish or two, but rarely more. In mid-morning, Moses, from Monmouth, struck into a pike of 15lb 12oz. Not long after that, he got into a corker — 18lb 4oz.

Then came a third fish, a fish so small that it would have been lost in a nook or cranny of a big pike's teeth. It weighed just 1lb 8oz, but it shortened the odds. By mid-afternoon, Law No 2 had exerted itself clearly over Law No 3, and some who had gone for a long shot were feeling warm.

They had forgotten Law No 1 of angling. Law No 1

says that, this being fishing and these being betting men, anyone can catch anything anywhere and, if it is inconvenient enough and improbable enough, they very likely will.

Neil Casey, of Sheffield, was fishing the Sixteen Foot Drain. The Sixteen Foot, in this match at least, has always been a dog. It has never produced, Low groans could be heard through the clamour of the draw when someone in the know drew a peg there.

Casey was not in the know. He had been pike fishing just 18 months and had never fished the match before. Away from the hubbub of the Forty Foot, on a normally dead piece of water, the fish did not

seem to be in the know, either. Casey banked two. One weighed 20lb 8oz, the other 22lb exactly. They were glass-case specimens both, the biggest brace of pike caught in the long history of the championship.

As it happens, a couple of other great fish were caught elsewhere, among them one of 23lb that fell to Carl Riley, of Norwich — but these other anglers caught nothing else.

And so, in the end, it was Law No 1 that prevailed. Angling's Law No 1 is Murphy's Law. Only the punters and the fishers seemed surprised that it had come through again.

RESULTS: 1. Neil Casey (Sheffield) 42lb 8oz; 2. Leslie Moses (Monmouth) 42lb 8oz; 3. Joan Cole (Warboys) 27lb 6oz.

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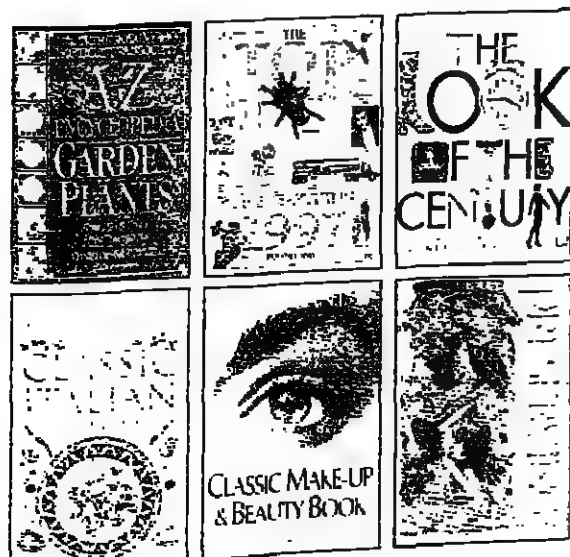
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CHANGING TIMES

RACING: BOSRA SHAM'S TRIUMPH SETS UP THRILLING TITLE FINALE AT DONCASTER

Cecil responds in champion style

By RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

AS HENRY CECIL reflected yesterday on the most memorable day in his 27 years as a trainer, he and Sheikh Mohammed were finalising their battle plans in the struggle for the trainers' championship.

The stunning success of Bosra Sham in the Dubai Champion Stakes, which prompted unforgettable scenes of public affection for Cecil at Newmarket on Saturday, means the ten times

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: ENTICE
(3.15 Pontefract)
Next best: Your Most Welcome
(3.45 Pontefract)

champion trainer is now £50,360 clear in the search for another title.

Ironically, the denouement to this enthralling encounter will almost certainly be played out at Doncaster next Saturday when the main protagonists are on the other side of the Atlantic, attending Breeders' Cup Day in Toronto.

The group one Racing Post Trophy, with £75,000 added prize-money, is the last big race of the season. If Cecil can win with Besiege, to be ridden by Richard Quinn, the title will be his. However, Sheikh Mohammed decided over the weekend to pay a total of £30,000 to supplement Asas



Cecil, watched by his wife, Natalie, receives warm congratulations from Bosra Sham's owner, Wafic Said

and Medaaly. If either prevails, Saeed bin Suroor, the licence holder for Sheikh Mohammed's Godolphin operation, will be back in with a shout and the title fight could continue until the final hours of the Flat season on November 11.

If anyone needed a reminder of what is at stake, a year

after the acrimonious split between Cecil and Sheikh Mohammed, the aftermath of the Champion Stakes offered it in vivid colour.

The wild applause as Cecil and his wife, Natalie, emerged from the walkway leading to the winner's enclosure, the telling look between the couple as the sheer volume of noise

hit them; Cecil's kiss to the cheering crowd, and the spontaneous three cheers for Henry in return. For a few moments, Headquarters felt like Cheltenham after a famous Irish victory.

"It was amazing," Cecil said yesterday. "Probably one of the best days I have ever had, certainly the most memorable.

The crowd was quite fantastic to the filly and to us. It just shows how much good there is all around."

While the partisan crowd cheered Cecil to the echo, their strength of feeling was matched by the magnanimity of Sheikh Mohammed in defeat. He was among the first to offer his congratulations to

Cecil and, in an amusing and touching gesture at the presentation ceremony, he feigned horror as Cecil unwittingly pointed his prize—a dagger—at the sheikh's heart.

Simon Crisford, a close confidant of the sheikh and Godolphin's racing manager, reflected: "It was an emotional day, which does not happen enough in racing. Flat racing can get a shade boring without Cheltenham-type scenes. It sometimes lacks a little bit of sensation, but this year has changed that."

"On Saturday night, after Halling's defeat and its effect on the trainers' championship, I told the boss he was like a lame duck with a broken wing, flying against a very powerful army. He said he felt more like a lion with a pine needle in his paw."

Crisford added: "On Saturday, we were serving with match point. Now we are up against it. Unless we win the Racing Post Trophy, we have had it. But it has been a great contest. I think everyone has enjoyed it and the reality is that Henry Cecil is a difficult man to beat."

Next year may tell a different story, as Godolphin plans to have 100 horses, including 60 two-year-olds, in training, more than double this year's string. Halling is unlikely to be among their number as he starts a career at stud. However, Cecil can look forward to training Bosra Sham as a four-year-old, thanks to the sporting attitude of her owner, Wafic Said.

Counting the cost as non-runners ground gamble

I have consulted a learned friend (Peregrine at the Wig And Fiddle) and he has suggested the correct wording for the writ. It would seek damages of £76,650 to compensate for loss of winnings, and be served upon Frankie Dettori, Pat Eddery and Walter Swinburn — to name but three.

Let me start at the beginning. Once or twice a year, your correspondent divers from his normal, rather boring practice of single win bets on horses and attempts to emulate the master punter, Jack Ramsden. This involves going for a serious touch by combining a number of fancies in doubles, trebles and other forms of "exotics" — as our punting friends on the other side of the Atlantic call such bets.

The circumstances for such investments are demanding. The horses involved must be on offer at decent prices — nothing shorter than 5-1 — and there must be total conviction they will win. Not surprisingly, considerable patience is required, but the wait can be worthwhile.

The memory of Rambo's Hall, 28-1 on the morning of his first Cambridgeshire victory, linked up with an Oliver Sherwood chaser lingers on. And then there was Magnet Cup day at York a few years back, when four out of five horses in combination bets obliged. Happy days.

You cannot construct good bets, Phil Bull, the Timeform guru, used to say. You have to wait for them to come along. Well, last week they arrived in plenty — and all on the same card. The waiting was over.

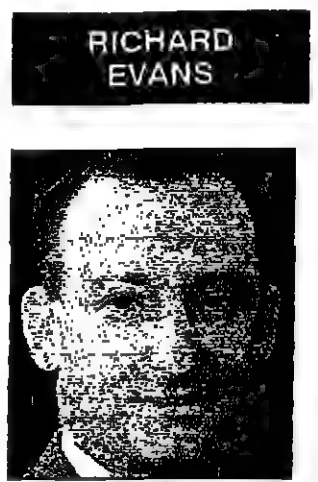
Underpinning the anticipated massive payout was a horse who made a big mistake on her debut as a two-year-old last year — she won at Newmarket. As a result, the handicapper clobbered My Mariah, giving her a stone more than her ability justified. Despite running her heart out, she had no chance of winning again — until last Wednesday.

After three disappointing runs over seven furlongs, the handicapper had realised the error of his ways and dropped My Mariah in the weights. Just as important, she was now running over a mile and a quarter for the first time, which her breeding suggests would be perfect. She also had

soft ground, ideal for a filly by Sals.

When the bookmakers offered their prices at 10am, Ladbrokes, William Hill and the Tote went 25-1. Coral offered 33-1. And so the bet of the year was placed. My Mariah, combined with Air Wing (20-1), a running-inform sprinter, getting soft ground for the first time since winning at Sandown last year, and Fine Times (8-1). The last named had also shown his best form on soft ground.

By 10.30am, My Mariah had been slashed to 10-1 as the gamble gathered pace. Air Wing's connections had never been more bullish, and I was already calculating the winnings. Defeat is not a possibility. I missed, driving to Newmarket.



Richard Evans

Racing Commentary

Unfortunately, I was right. After the first race on Wednesday's card at Haydock, the jockeys decided en masse to down tools because, unlike the stewards, they decided the ground was unsafe. I now know how a batsman on 99 feels when he runs out of partners.

Yet, despite the gamble being sunk, my sympathy rests with the jockeys involved. Indeed, when the report of the Haydock stewards' decision to take firm action — and fine and suspend the stewards involved.

PONTFRAC

THUNDER

2.15 Gablesea 3.45 North Reef
2.45 Wollstonecraft 4.15 Arian Spirit
3.15 ENTICE (nap) 4.45 Julietta Mila
5.15 Parfazz

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.45 WOLLSTONECRAFT (nap). 3.15 Sunbeam Dance, 3.45 North Reef.

GOING: GOOD, GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES
DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

2.15 WOLLSTONECRAFT MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES
(Div 1: 2-Y-O: £2,388; 60 (15 runners)

101 (1) 101 KEY LARGO (M) (20m) W Haggis 8-11 M Henry 57
102 (2) 102 WILD HUNTER (F) (20m) W Haggis 8-11 M Henry 57
103 (3) 103 CHASHTOWN FLYER (M) (20m) W Haggis 8-11 M Henry 57
104 (4) 104 CHASHTOWN FLYER (M) (20m) W Haggis 8-11 M Henry 57
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114 (14) 114 CHASHTOWN FLYER (M) (20m) W Haggis 8-11 M Henry 57
115 (15) 115 CHASHTOWN FLYER (M) (20m) W Haggis 8-11 M Henry 57
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1995: MISSILE 8-1 M Haggis (14-1) W Haggis 15 m

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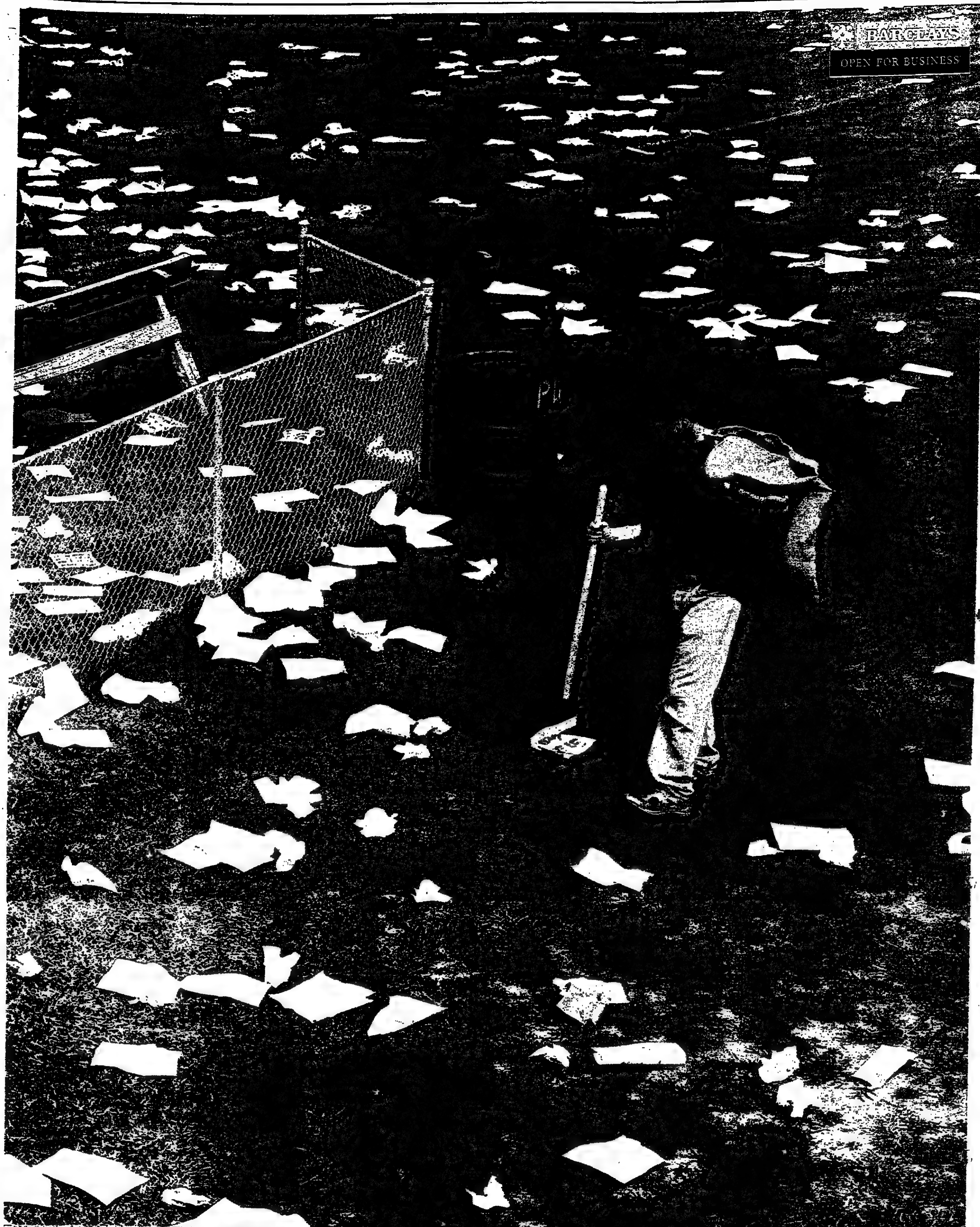
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WOLLSTONECRAFT (14) (20m) W Haggis 8-11 M Henry 57
WOLLSTONECRAFT (15) (20m) W Haggis 8-11 M Henry 57
BETTING: 4-1 Chashtown Flyer, 7-1 Wollstonecraft, 8-1 Chashtown Flyer, 10-1 Key Largo, 12-1 Wollstonecraft, 15-1 Chashtown Flyer.

FORM FOCUS

WOLLSTONECRAFT (1) (20m) W Haggis 8-11 M Henry 57
WOLLSTONECRAFT (2) (20m) W Haggis 8-11 M Henry 57
WOLLSTONECRAFT (3) (20m) W Haggis 8-11 M Henry 57
WOLLSTONECRAFT (4) (20m) W Haggis 8-11 M Henry 57
WOLLSTONECRAFT (5) (20m) W Haggis 8-11 M Henry 57
WOLLSTONECRAFT (6) (20m) W Haggis 8-11 M Henry 57
WOLLSTONECRAFT (7) (20m) W Haggis 8-11 M Henry 57
WOLLSTONECRAFT (8) (20m) W Haggis 8-11 M Henry 57
WOLLSTONECRAFT (9) (20m) W Haggis 8-11 M Henry 57
WOLLSTONECRAFT (10) (20m) W Haggis 8-11 M Henry 57
WOLLSTONECRAFT (11) (20m) W Haggis 8-11 M Henry 57
WOLLSTONECRAFT (12) (20m) W Haggis 8-11 M Henry 57
WOLLSTONECRAFT (13) (20m) W Haggis 8-11 M Henry 57
WOLLSTONECRAFT (1



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[illegible]

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Kleinwort Endowment Policy, Korea Liberalisation, Olives Property, Taiwan Investment Trust. Finals: Kleinwort Second Endowment. Economics: US Treasury auction of short-term T-bills.

TOMORROW

Interims: Airflow Streamlines, Biotechnology Investments, Boxmore International, Consolidated Murchison (q), Dumyat Investment Trust, Edinburgh Investment Trust, Guinness Flight Venture, Nynex Cablecomms, Randfontein Estates Gold Mining Company (q), Seton Healthcare, Shires Smaller Companies, SmithKline Beecham (q3). Finals: Paterson Zochonis, Scottish Metropolitan Property, Wolseley. Economics: Confederation of British Industry quarterly industrial trends survey, UK 2002 gilt auction.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Davenport Knitwear. Finals: Scottish Oriental Smaller Companies Trust. Trading statement: WPP Group. Economics: UK September retail sales, US Treasury auction five-year treasury notes.

THURSDAY

Interims: ICI (q3), Scottish Mortgage Trust. Finals: British & American Investment Trust. Economics: Bank of England Treasury 2014-16 gilt auction, Bundesbank central council meeting.

FRIDAY

Interims: Alida Holdings, Alliance Resources, Grampian Television, Silk Industries. Finals: TR Far East Income Trust. Economics: UK preliminary GDP for third quarter, UK global trade balance for August, UK non-European Union trade balance for September, US September durable goods orders, US existing home sales for September.

Weaker markets take heavy toll at ICI

ICI: A further deterioration in its main markets means that third-quarter figures on Thursday are likely to make grim reading. NatWest Securities, the broker, is forecasting a drop in pre-tax profits from £758 million to £495 million.

The broker says that while every effort is being made by the group to reduce costs through increased efficiency and to realise the benefits of its drive to improve margins, any gains are being eroded by the collapse in profitability in markets such as titanium dioxide and polyester.

With this in mind, it now seems that most forecasts for the full year are looking a touch on the high side and that a further round of profit downgradings by brokers may follow Thursday's result. At present, NatWest is looking for £635 million for the year, way below the number achieved during the first nine months of 1995.

Recovery in Europe and the prospect of stronger growth in the Far East should benefit the group during the medium term. But the main problem facing ICI continues to be oversupply in a number of main markets. This means that pricing of its products becomes crucial. Unfortunately there is little scope for improvement in this area for some time. Other markets, such as polyurethanes, have held up well but may also face a problem with oversupply next year.

But it is not all gloom and doom for Sir Ronald Hampel, ICI's chairman. Speciality chemi-

cals remain strong, while paints and materials have benefited from a pick-up in demand and an easing of raw material costs. Costs savings this year are likely to reach £150 million.

SMITHKLINE BEECHAM: By contrast, third-quarter figures from SmithKline Beecham tomorrow should impress the City, with further solid performances by the group's stable of tried and tested treatments, including Paxil, Kyril, Havrix, and Famvir.

The City seems to have few doubts that the group will be able to match brokers' expectations, with the consensus seeming to suggest a 19 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £370 million. Earnings per share are expected to grow by nearly 12 per cent to almost 9p.

The group should now be starting to reap the real benefits of the acquisition of DPS, its US pharmacy business, and we may hear that augmentation has begun to enjoy a new lease of life.

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Telegraph: Buy Cosalt, Safeway. The Sunday Times: Buy Rank, Safeland; Hold Eldos. The Observer: Buy Rascal Electronics. Independent on Sunday: Buy PolyMasc; Avoid Albert Fisher, Burn Stewart.

WOLSELEY: The group has always achieved the sort of returns that other companies in the building supplies industry can only envy. But tomorrow's full-year figures may provide sceptics with the ammunition to suggest that the bubble may be about to burst.

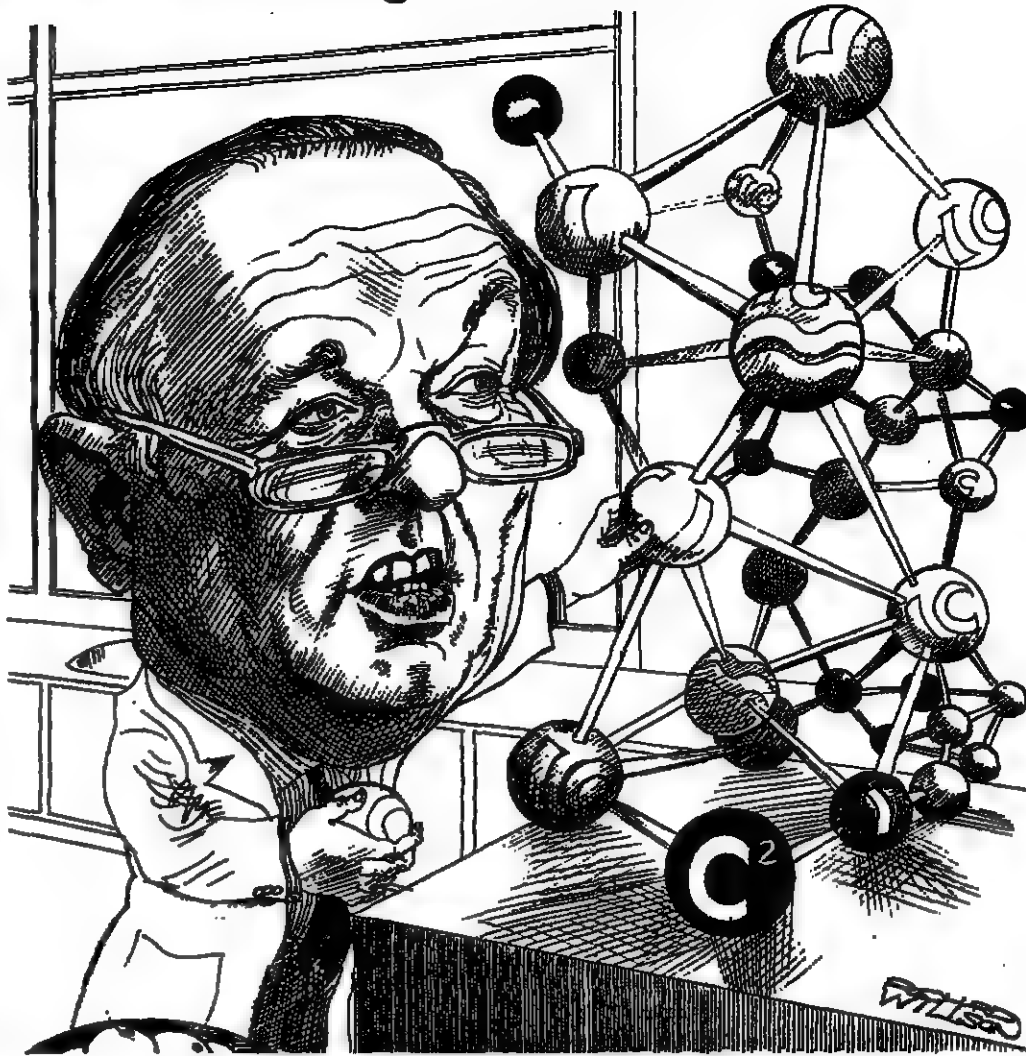
The building industry has had a tough time of it during the past couple of years, although Wolseley has produced a better rate of return than many of its peers.

Even so, pre-tax profits are expected to be down about £4.5 million at £241 million, a fall of 2 per cent, with earnings almost 1p lower at 28.9p. In spite of this there should be scope for an increase in the net dividend of 7 per cent at 10.5p.

As the recovery in the building industry continues, Wolseley is already achieving operating margins of 9 per cent, which means further progress may be limited.

There is still scope to improve earnings with the help of Builder Centre in this country and Familian Corporation in the US, but without the help of acquisitions it is likely to be less spectacular than has previously been the case.

Wolseley continues to derive up to 45 per cent of its profits from the US and with the risk of a slowdown there, brokers feel the company may need to make a substantial acquisition in Europe to take up the slack. With gearing as low as 10 per cent, there is clearly scope for such a move.



Oversupply in main markets is the problem for Sir Ronald Hampel at ICI

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

GDP data could point to monetary tightening

With labour market figures and a British Chambers of Commerce survey last week suggesting that the economy is accelerating and the next monthly monetary meeting scheduled for October 30, this week's economic evidence will be closely watched.

The first point of interest comes tomorrow with the Confederation of British Industry's quarterly and monthly trends surveys. If the CBI tells a similar story to the Chambers survey, it should show considerable firmness in business. On Wednesday, retail sales figures for September are due. The latest retail sales monitor from the British Retail Consortium suggested that sales growth has slowed a little and, according to a consensus of

market forecasts compiled by MMS International, sales are expected to have dipped 0.1 per cent in September after rising 1 per cent in August. This would take year-on-year growth down to 3.9 per cent from the 4.4 per cent recorded in August.

Probably the most important figure of the week comes on Friday with preliminary figures for third quarter gross domestic product. The consensus forecast from MMS International is looking for growth in the quarter of 0.8 per cent, a considerable acceleration from the 0.5 per cent posted in the second quarter. This would boost year-on-year growth to 2.4 from 2.2.

The Chancellor has been using sub-trend growth as a key justification for refusing to

raise rates. Trend growth is usually regarded to be about 2.25 to 2.5 per cent so a year-on-year rate of 2.4 per cent would tend to strengthen the Bank of England's arguments for a small tightening of monetary policy. However, the Chancellor can point to sterling's strength which, in itself, is a monetary tightening. Also on Friday, August global visible trade figures are published and are predicted to show a deficit of £1 billion, compared with a shortfall of £1.22 billion recorded in July. September figures for trade with countries outside the European Union are expected to show a deficit of £500 million, virtually unchanged from August's £499 million.

JANET BUSH

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.09	1.93
Austria Sch	13.17	16.67
Belgium Fr	53.24	48.94
Canada \$	2.248	2.058
Cyprus Cyp£	0.7748	0.7198
Denmark Kr	9.92	8.12
Finland Mk	7.88	7.23
France Fr	6.65	6.00
Germany Dm	2.594	2.394
Greece Dr	387	372
Hong Kong \$	12.89	11.88
Iceland	115	95
Ireland Pt	1.042	0.982
Israel Shk	5.54	4.89
Japan Yen	2546	2391
Malta	0.816	0.581
Netherlands Gld	2.890	2.690
New Zealand \$	2.40	2.18
Norway Kr	10.89	10.09
Portugal Esc	257.50	239.00
S Africa Rd	7.78	6.98
Spain Ptas	212.00	198.00
Sweden Kr	11.17	10.37
Switzerland Fr	2.138	1.953
Turkey Lira	153800	145800
USA \$	1.628	1.553

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Friday.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar 1.5918 (+0.0161)
German mark 2.4560 (+0.0436)
Exchange index 89.3 (+1.5)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 2865.2 (+22.5)
FT-SE 100 4053.1 (+25.0)
New York Dow Jones 6094.23 (+124.85)
Tokyo Nikkei Avg

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THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

EVERY FRIDAY 21

Maghreb pipeline ready to turn on the gas

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN
IN MADRID

A \$3.5 billion pipeline, designed to bring Algerian natural gas to European homes and industries, and expected to supply up to 10 per cent of the Continent's gas needs by 2000, is set to become operational next month.

With an initial annual capacity of 8,000 million cubic metres, the 2,500-kilometre pipeline will connect Europe to the gas deposits of Hassi R'Mel in the Algerian Sahara, one of

the world's largest gasfields. The pipeline runs overland through Morocco to the port of Tangier. From there, the gas will flow through pipelines laid on the seabed of the Strait of Gibraltar to Cordoba, in southern Spain, and then to Portugal. An extension from Portugal to Galicia, in northern Spain, is expected to be completed by June 1997. By 2000, links with France and Germany are expected to be in service.

The pipeline, completed in two years, has been built jointly by Gas

Natural Enagas, the Spanish gas utility, Sonatrach, Algeria's state-owned oil and gas company, and SNPP, of Morocco. The project received a \$1 billion subsidy from the European Union and Natural Enagas secured \$200 million of preferential credit from the European Investment Bank.

The strategic significance of the Euro-Maghreb pipeline should not be underestimated: by 2000, it should be supplying Europe with 20,000 million cubic metres of gas per

annum. At present, 40 per cent of the natural gas consumed in the European Union is imported. That figure is set to double by 2015. With no sign of an end to instability in the states of the former Soviet Union, which boast 80 per cent of the world's known gas reserves, Europe needs to find other sources of supply, especially as a fifth of all energy consumed in the European Union is gas-based.

Algeria, in the grip of a battle between a hardline Government and Islamic fundamentalists, is hardly a

picture of stability either. Yet the European Union's strategic planners hope that the pipeline, and the revenue it will bring to the impoverished country, will act as a steadying influence, integrating an important part of the Maghreb into the European economy. Besides, the cost of importing piped gas from Algeria is so much lower than that of the Urals that a calculated risk is thought to be well worth taking.

Domination in pipeline, page 46

Factory pay levels still falling, says CBI

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

PAY levels for workers in manufacturing are continuing to fall, while productivity is on the increase, according to figures published today by the Confederation of British Industry.

Provisional pay awards in the manufacturing sector averaged 3.2 per cent for the three months ending September, which compares with 3.5 per cent for the previous three months ending June.

The CBI Pay Databank shows a slight decline year on year, with pay awards running at 3.3 per cent for the three months to September 30, last year.

The figures, which are issued every two months, are regarded as a reliable guide to pay trends and will also ease concerns over inflationary pressure from pay.

They contrast somewhat with the annual earnings statistics released last week, which showed a 4 per cent increase, revised up from 3.75 per cent.

A spokesman for the CBI said that settlements exclude annual bonuses and employees brought in at pay levels higher than the flat awards made by an employer.

The new figures are in line with the last pay statistics published by the CBI - for the three months to July 31 - when pay awards dipped to 3.2 per cent.

Then manufacturers told the survey that price pressures on their goods along with low inflation were exercising constraint on pay settlements.

Today's CBI figures show that pay awards for the service sector have stabilised this year.

They ran at 3.6 per cent in the three months to September compared with the same rate for the three months to June and 3.2 per cent in the three months to September last year.

Manufacturing companies told the CBI that by the end of the third quarter of this year their productivity had risen by a provisional 4.8 per cent in the past 12 months, while the expected increase in productivity for the next 12 months was 5.2 per cent. This compares with 4.5 per cent and 4.9 per cent respectively for the second quarter and 4.3 per cent and 4.7 per cent for the first quarter.

Many local government workers are having to claim benefits and are turning to debt counsellors because of low pay and poor prospects, according to a survey by the Low Pay Unit commissioned by Unison, the country's largest union.

The survey found that half a million workers in local government earned less than £4.26 per hour; one in ten was on social security benefits other than child benefit or a pension; almost a fifth had financial problems and one in 12 had sought advice over debt.

One in four said they were expected to work unpaid overtime. The report covers 1.6 million full-time and part-time manual and non-manual local government employees excluding teachers.



Henzy Essenberg, left, and Eric Burgoyne, KLM's UK and Ireland general manager, are planning 40 cheaper destinations

KLM steps up UK fares dogfight

BY MARTIN BARROW

THE fierce price war in Europe's skyways is set to intensify as KLM Royal Dutch Airways launches discount fares from 16 UK airports.

KLM and Air UK, its British partner headed by Henzy Essenberg, chairman, will today announce cut-price November fares to more than 40 European destinations aimed at boosting their share of the

short-haul flights market. Up to £200 will be cut from the cheapest alternative.

Although aimed at the pre-Christmas short-break leisure traveller, the November seat sale is the first step in a campaign to lift its share of the 374 million intra-European air passenger market to 15 per cent from a current 8 per cent by the end of the century. An

expansion of the European fleet is already under way, including the addition of nine Boeing 737s at a cost of \$300 million. Two will be purchased from Boeing, with the remainder coming from Air UK, increasing the fleet of 737s to 36. KLM Cityhopper, KLM's regional subsidiary, is selling six Fokker 100s to Air UK as part of a move to

standardise its fleet. "Eurooff" promotion fares include £69 from London to Amsterdam, £96 return from London or Birmingham (via Amsterdam) to Cologne, and £99 to Copenhagen and Madrid and £109 to Berlin, all claiming to undercut British Airways, plus £379 return to Moscow from Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Belfast.

Exeter to unveil AIM listing plan

BY NOEL FUNG

EXETER Investment Group, the split-level investment trust specialist, will today unveil plans for a share listing on the Alternative Investment Market that will value the company at up to £10 million.

The listing will bring in £1 million of fresh capital for the investment group, whose funds under management have trebled in the past five years to £388 million.

Founded in 1986 by Ian Henderson, the present chief executive, the company has three principal subsidiaries. Exeter Asset Management acts as investment manager for four quoted investment trusts and for the seven authorised

unit trusts operated by Exeter Fund Managers. Sinclair Henderson, the third arm, provides company secretarial and administration services for 22 investment trusts.

In the year to the end of September the company earned pre-tax profits of £827,320, up from £496,000 the year before.

Mr Henderson will control 45 per cent of the company after the flotation. Funds raised from the share issue will be used to expand Exeter Investment Group's product range, strengthen its distribution channels and develop its product packaging.

The company is also studying opportunities in the pensions market.

Tax tussle could reach High Court

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

A 12-YEAR battle between Legal & General and the Inland Revenue over tax breaks for life insurance policyholders may end up in the High Court.

So far the insurance company has been unable to settle its dispute with the Revenue over hundreds of policies that were issued just before the benefit was scrapped in the March 1984 Budget.

Both sides are now trying to negotiate a settlement, but Legal & General has acknowledged that the dispute over which policies qualified for tax relief might finally be decided by the High Court.

There was a huge demand for new life assurance policies in the months preceding that Budget as speculation grew

that tax relief at 17½ per cent would be abolished for all new policies.

When Nigel Lawson, who was then Chancellor, announced that this was the case and policies issued from March 14, 1984, would not qualify for relief, companies lost one of their most powerful marketing tools.

The point on which the Revenue and L&G differ is whether the paperwork for the policies was actually completed in time. Policyholders did not suffer because L&G, like other insurance companies, absorbed the cost of providing relief for them.

L&G declined to say how much compensation it would be looking for if its case were proved.

GILT-EDGED

The maturity of the cycle means it's time to take profits

THE gilt market has had a good run over the past month, with yields on ten-year maturities falling from 5 per cent to the 7.5 per cent area. Crucial to this move has been the favourable shift in sentiment towards US Treasuries. This followed a series of economic releases suggesting that the Federal Reserve will refrain from raising interest rates for the near term.

Gilts have also benefited from the buoyancy of sterling, the sheer weight of money reflecting heavy institutional cash inflows and the positive convergence trend within Europe. The latter point has been particularly significant, with yields falling dramatically in Italy, Spain and Sweden in the wake of the announcement of tough budgetary measures designed to meet the fiscal targets enshrined in the Maastricht treaty.

Nevertheless, we suspect that gilts have gone about as far as they are likely to go for the time being. Indeed, the risk is that over the next few months yields could climb back towards recent highs. But why the pessimism? Well, for a start we still don't believe that the impact of the forthcoming election

average earnings growth had risen to 4 per cent was indicative of risk. It is noteworthy that the wage drift component of the earnings figure is still unusually low and could be expected to pick up as the economy gathers pace even if the level of wage settlements were to remain stable.

However, this latter prospect looks increasingly unlikely. Unemployment continues to fall sharply, while the level of job vacancies is now only a little below the highs seen at previous cyclical peaks. Indeed, both the vacancy to unemployment ratio and number of days lost to strikes have jumped to 6½-year highs. This does not, of course, mean a pay explosion is imminent. Skill shortages are still limited, and the latest CBI survey detects no pressure in labour costs or prices as yet. A stronger sterling will also help to bear down on prices. But it does suggest that the best of the inflation news is in the past.

A further factor that could weaken the gilt market is the reluctance on the part of Germany to allow either Italy or Spain to participate in EMU at its inception in spite of the best efforts of the respective governments.

The Government could surprise us all and announce it intends to take part in EMU

The comment by Hans-Jürgen Köbnick, a Bundesbank council member, to this effect last Wednesday was badly received by the

Party is expected to win. Typically this has only happened in the final three or four months. Although a Blair-led government may well adopt rather more orthodox monetary and fiscal policies than its Labour predecessors, there is still likely to be an element of uncertainty until this is shown to be the case.

Perhaps even more relevant for the gilt market is the improving trend in economic activity. Recent data indicates manufacturing output is still disappointingly weak, but the healthier trend in order books reflected in the CBI monthly report and the better tone to the purchasing managers' survey point to an upturn before very much longer. Meanwhile, other areas of the economy are continuing to strengthen. Growth, according to Consensus Economics, is expected to accelerate to 3.3 per cent in 1997, but a significant number of forecasters expect an outturn nearer to 4 per cent.

This need not necessarily preclude a build-up in price pressures, but the balance of probabilities points to some deterioration in the quiescent inflation picture. The news last week that underlying

high-yielding bond markets in Europe. If this view is adopted more explicitly by the Government of Chancellor Kohl, it could further undermine the convergence trend in continental yields.

So what are the risks to this cautious view? Well, the Government could surprise us all and announce that it intended to participate in EMU or make the Bank of England independent. Neither of these developments are in our view remotely possible before the election, nor are they likely under a new Conservative administration for some time to come. With a Labour victory, it is questionable whether very much will change, certainly as regards to Europe. The other source of uncertainty is the US. We still believe that given the maturity of the economic cycle, the gently upward drift in pay settlements will persist, forcing the Treasury market back on to the defensive. This is of course a crucial assumption, but on this basis it is plainly right to take profits now on gilts.

MICHAEL LENHOFF AND SIMON RUBINSOHN
Capital Management

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Directors may sue over Hollick group sackings

By Jason Nisse

FOUR DIRECTORS sacked three weeks ago by Miller Freeman, the trade magazine arm of United News & Media, are considering taking legal action against the group run by Lord Hollick.

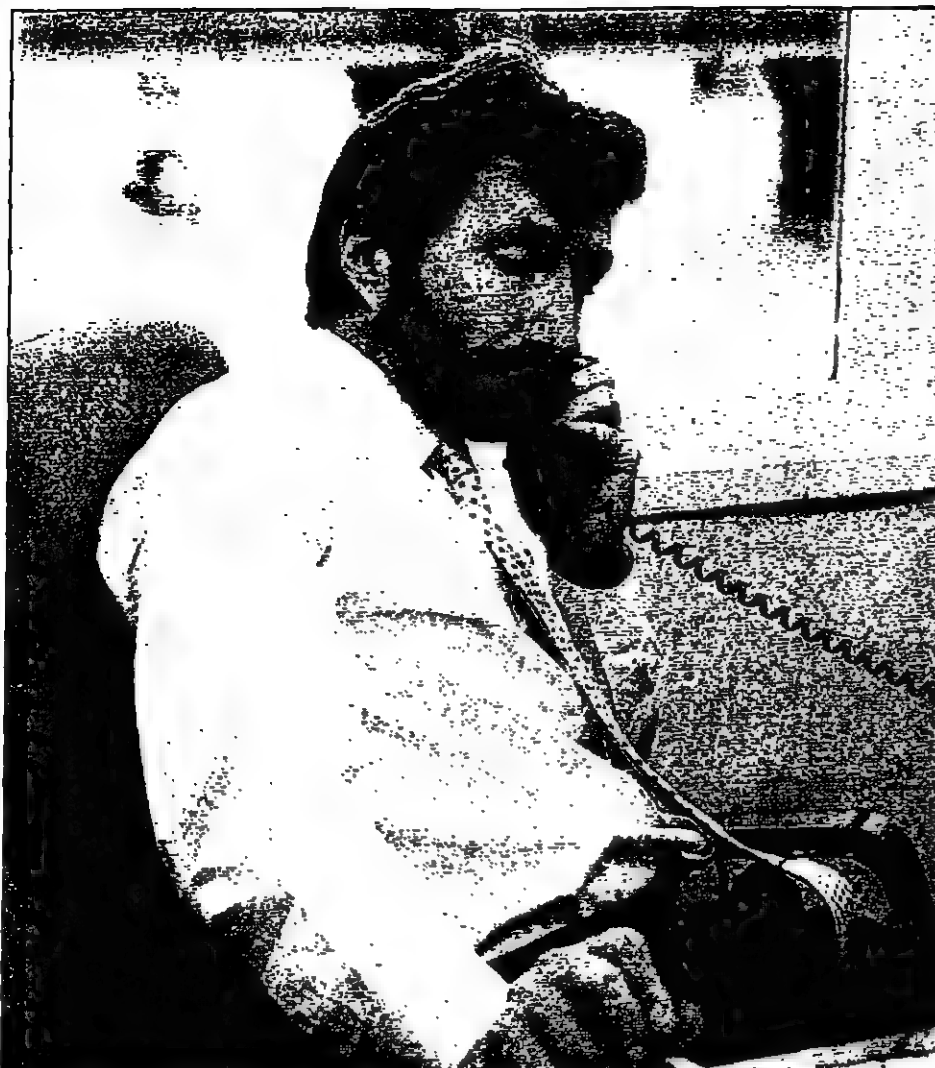
The directors were dismissed by Marshall Freeman, the San Francisco man who heads Miller Freeman, after a whirlwind visit to the operation's UK headquarters in Woolwich, south-east London.

Mr Freeman, a main board director of United, arrived at Woolwich late last month and met three of the operation's divisional chiefs, Tony Arnold, Stan Arnold (no relation) and Roger Smith, the marketing director. All four were told that their services were no longer required.

The three divisional chiefs run more than half of Miller Freeman's UK businesses, and the four made up nearly half the company's board of directors. They were replaced on the board by the promotion of the human resources director and two other managers, and by the drafting in of Harry King, who had run Tolley, the legal publisher, before United sold it to Reed Elsevier this year.

The four sacked directors have not been offered compensation and are consulting lawyers. The company declined to comment on the issue because of the possibility of litigation.

Mr Freeman, who has since returned to San Francisco, was unavailable for comment. The move came just days before United paid £500 million for Blenheim Group, the exhibitions operation, which has had its own management problems. Blenheim's business is expected to be integrated with Miller Freeman.



Shakeout follows Lord Hollick's appointment as chief executive of United News & Media

under the guiding hand of Mr Freeman.

Analysts have identified Miller Freeman as the part of United that needs to perform better after the merger with MAI Group. The most recent accounts show Miller Freeman making a pre-tax profit of just £4.6 million on turnover

of more than £87 million.

Many of the company's rivals make operating margins of more than 20 per cent. The shakeout at Miller Freeman is the latest development since Lord Hollick became chief executive of United News & Media. At Express Newspapers, Stephen Grabiner was

recruited as managing director from The Telegraph group, replacing Andrew Cameron. This was followed by the integration of the *Daily Express* and *Sunday Express* into one seven-day title, under Richard Addis as editor. The move led to redundancies at Express Newspapers.

Datacom denies tax evasion

By OUR BUSINESS STAFF

NEWS Datacom Research, an Israeli company that develops and sells encryption systems mainly for pay-television broadcasters, has denied allegations of tax evasion in Israel.

News Datacom issued a statement yesterday after the Israeli Income Tax Authority searched the company's offices in Jerusalem. The authority also searched the premises of News Datacom Research's attorneys and auditors.

News Datacom Research is a wholly owned subsidiary of News Datacom UK, which, in turn, is a subsidiary of News International, owner of *The Times*.

In a statement, News Datacom Research said: "The company has filed all required tax returns and paid all applicable taxes. It has complied with all applicable Israeli laws and regulations. The company has always co-operated in the past and will continue to co-operate with all relevant authorities in Israel."

News Datacom, which has more than 250 employees, said that the allegations of tax evasion "are entirely without merit". It also said that it had not received research grants that carry restrictions on technology transfer.

Rank Xerox separation conditioned by X factor

By JON ASHWORTH

WHAT price the X factor? This is the question exercising minds at The Rank Organisation, the leisure group, which in August confirmed its intention to dispose of its 20 per cent stake in Rank Xerox, the copier-to-printer company.

The City thinks that the sale could net £1 billion. Others are not so sure. Whatever the price, the deal will herald a new era for Rank Xerox, which has been struggling to diversify into new products in the past six years.

The company will change its name to Xerox, ending a 40-year association with Rank, and bringing it in line with its American parent. Attempts will continue to shift the company away from its traditional product, copiers, which today account for about 50 per cent of sales.

The move is part of a grand strategy by Bernard Fournier, 57, the Frenchman who became chief executive officer of Rank Xerox, based in Marlow, Buckinghamshire, in 1989. He reduced the headcount by 4,000 over three years, yet still succeeded in boosting morale. In 1991, staff satisfaction at Marlow was about 35 per cent, compared with a national average among UK employees of 57 per cent. Today, it has risen to 83 per cent, while the UK average has declined to 52 per cent.

M Fournier has reorganised Rank Xerox into more than



Fournier break with tradition

per cent a year on average. A further innovation is training. Rank Xerox spends £1,600 per head on training — four times as much as the average UK company. M Fournier believes in communication — so much so that he moved out of his office in June, and now sits around a table with three fellow executives. He says the system speeds up decision-making.

Rank Xerox's structure has been transformed since M Fournier arrived. Half of group revenues today are from products that did not exist when he took office. Pre-tax profits recovered from a low of £197 million in 1992, to £616 million in 1995, on sales of £3.7 billion.

As debate on the timing of the Rank sale continues, M Fournier is intent on expanding into new areas. Japan poses the greatest threat in the mainstream copier market, which has been flat in Western Europe.

In America, the sights are trained on Hewlett Packard, which claims up to 60 per cent of the market in mass-market printers. Rank Xerox speaks for 3 per cent.

New areas include laser printers, and colour copiers and printers. M Fournier says: "It is important that we develop and we succeed in penetrating new markets. As 50 per cent of our market is flattening, we need enormous growth to keep the company growing."

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

Mixed fortunes for newcomers

THE latest entrants to the Alternative Investment Market enjoyed mixed fortunes last week.

Fitness First, the health club group, made its debut midweek and on its first day jumped to a healthy 10½p premium on its 80p placing price. It ended the week unchanged at 90½p.

Despite its association with Richard Branson, who holds a 10.6 per cent interest, Victory Corporation fell back from its 58p placing price to 54p before recovering to 58p by Friday's close.

Geo Interactive Media, placed at 100p, jumped to a 12p premium but closed at 106½p, below expectations.

AIM companies announcing results last week included Alizyme, the biopharmaceuticals group, which reported losses of £65,000 for the first half. The group came to the market in July via a placing at 60p. Interest in Alizyme's longer term prospects for drugs now being developed helped the shares to add 2p to 39½p last week.

Prism Rail, the railway franchise group, saw its

shares fall back from 405p to 365p on the week. It announced a £124 million rights issue to fund the acquisition of the South West and West Railway and Cardiff Railway.

The offer is 11 shares for 26 and priced at 240p. Prism raised £8 million when it floated in AIM in May.

Jardiner Interiors promises a floral touch to AIM when it makes its debut at the end of the month.

The company, which rents, sells and maintains indoor plants for businesses, is hop-

ing to raise £10.2 million from its placing at 114p. The money will fund two acquisitions. Dealing is expected to start on October 31.

Magnum Power, which makes fail-safe back-up power supplies for computers, plans to switch to AIM from the Unlisted Securities Market as part of a refinancing package. Magnum is to raise £3.4 million through a placing of 18 million new shares at 20p. Its USM price rose 7p to 33½p on Friday.

CLARE STEWART

1996	Low	Mid cap (million)	Price	Why	Yld	P/E
1996	Low	Mid cap (million)	Price	Why	Yld	P/E
150	132	15.00 AFA Systems	150	1	4.7	10.0
135	109	19.00 AMCO Corp	135	1	...	...
113	87	17.00 AND Int Pub	84	...	...	...
87	18	4.05 Abacus Reconst	84	...	...	...
15	14	1.00 Abacus Rec PP	14	...	...	...
161	125	20.90 Active Trading	114	...	...	...
210	123	29.50 A de Gouchy	200	2	3.9	15.0
20	12	13.40 A de Gouchy	12	...	...	...
62	36	34.20 Airtouch	17	5	...	...
22	13	8.90 Altimedia & Bt	23	4	1.3	13.0
58	32	6.33 Alzyme	39	2	...	...
24	1	5.72 Alpha Oculum	1	...	...	...
480	300	45.50 Ann St Brewery	475	5	4.9	12.8
95	65	5.90 Ann St Cr PI	95	10	8.2	...
121	48	63.00 Arden Progs	87	...	...	...
9	7	1.66 Arden Progs	87	...	...	...
81	30	2.70 Ashurst	31	1	...	...
141	68	18.00 Ash Central	115	...	...	...
64	35	1.16 Abney Trust	64	...	...	...
149	123	40.60 BATH Adv Comm	149	...	...	...
68	30	11.90 Barking Health	61	...	...	...
46	27	3.33 Belcano	37	...	...	...
150	140	1.01 Bonness Leds	147	...	3.0	11.4
70	70	0.34 Bonn Leds Cy PI	70	...	...	...
70	41	7.89 Bancote Hlps	70	...	...	...
107	98	3.74 Bt Bioscience	99	...	2.1	27.5
530	340	63.00 Brocksom	330	10	1.7	11.7
130	118	13.30 CA Couals Hlps	130	...	0.7	17.5
110	100	0.12 CCI Founder Srs	109	...	...	...
140	116	1.12 CCI Hlps	140	...	7.7	...
213	135	4.43 Cals Int	185	...	1.9	12.8
98	68	13.00 Canisat	91	...	0.8	18.2
43	27	14.40 Card Clear	32	...	...	...
108	81	9.26 Caribou Ship	92	1	1.4	8.8
72	48	2.52 Cassidy Bros	48	2	7.8	8.8
57	41	2.46 Cavendish W	56	4	3.4	25.8
21	18	9.30 Celebrated Group	18	...	1.9	11.0
235	650	62.30 Celtic	625	1000	...	...
275	650	62.30 Celtic PI Sls	616	1000	...	...
124	109	16.00 CI Comm (IV)	119	...	2.7	14.5
86	49	5.62 Chantrel Int	49	...	...	...
100	53	120.10 Chelsea Village	89	3	...	...
215	120	11.00 Chemical Bros	160	15	...	...
185	173	19.70 Circle Comm	181	1	...	...
153	131	24.30 Cinqat	147	2	5.0	12.6
110	110	0.99 Cinq Homes	110	...	...	...
310	25	11.60 CinqPartners	27	...	3.1	...
21	15	12.00 Cinq de Per Flo	20	...	...	...
100	85	0.24 Conc Tech A PI	95	...	...	...
125	118	0.19 Conc Tech B PI	95	...	...	...
225	215	0.17 Conc Tech C PI	225	...	...	...
44	37	8.14 Constar Int	37	...	5.8	9.4
129	56	22.60 Country Edms	122	7	1.4	12.6
97	58	3.04 Croyd Int	91	1	7.8	...
345	190	4.40 Crown Engneers	275	5	5.5	7.0
63	39	17.00 Crown Products	39	3	3.2	14.1
48	152	35.80 DCS Management	48	66	...	...
25	25	1.42 DCS Mgmt	25	...	...	...
75	60	3.65 David Glass	67	...	9.3	8.2
1700	880	63.50 Dawson Ship	1675	...	2.4	14.7
17	11	6.10 Day Corp	14	...	1.8	12.4
4	3	0.17 Demingco	4	...	...	...
375	305	36.80 Digid	358	...	0.4	...
111	78	14.30 Digital Amen	97	...	...	...
87	60	14.30 Digid	74	...	...	...
137	38	2.69 Drings of Bath	128	...	...	...
246	148	37.80 Elec Retail Sys	179	18	...	...
200	58	38.50 Electromedicals	58	...	...	...
116	61	11.60 Elmfield	61	...	...	...
316	310	11.60 Elmfield Mining	312	...	...	...
125	120	5.62 Euro Sales Fd	125	...	...	...
475	325	10.40 Farlane	410	...	1.1	9.0
22	11	41.40 Farwell W	111	...	...	...
138	132	3.86 Farnham	132	...	2.4	10.2
265	75	6.25 Fen Pubs	265	15	...	...
183	93	3.04 Fen Pubs	183	...	...	...
92	80	24.50 Fitness First	90	...	26.3	...
245	186	6.02 Fometics	235	10	1.4	...
343	253	7.70 Floral St	300	7	0.4	13.6
46	39	3.05 FW Hlps	45	...	...	...
193	113	14.50 Formax	135	...	2.1	...
37	14	145.00 Freepages	37	3	...	...
144	93	8.55 Furlong Homes	142	...	2.4	10.1
23	16	6.10 Gabriel Trust	17	...	...	...
63	57	17.50 Gall Thomson Sw	57	...	8.3	...
13	8	37.10 Gander Hlps	12	...	...	...
109	87	76.10 Gantard W&B	87	6	...	...
113	106	106.50 Geo Int Media	106	...	...	...
13	8	23.50 Gold Mines Snd	10	...	...	...
22	8	5.62 Gold Mines Snd Wts	10	...	...	...
15	13	2.85 Greenhills	9	...	...	...
130	145	1.83 Grover Int	134	...	3.8	12.5
243	189	27.20 HAT Entertain	243	5	...	...
41	15	1.58 Hanson	15	...	...	...
68	53	2.67 Hal Pw	60	...	5.7	7.9
275	165	6.57 Health Em	275	...	2.8	17.0
255	180	10.70 Healthcare A	265	...	2.8	15.1
65	50	1.27 Hercules Prop	50	...	...	...
138	118	152.70 Hixson	124	2	2.5	...
86	63	7.31 Hydro-Dynamic	86	...	...	...
119	11	22.30 ICS	135	...	0.5	...
290	140	2.78 ICS Wts	135	...	...	...
86	63	15.20 Indagat Em	86	...	...	...
116	105	11.20 Indagat Radio	116	...	...	...
105	13	8.05 Inner Workings	57	...	...	...
88	55	0.62 Integnat Em	57	...	...	...
134	105	16.20 Integnat Tech	134	...	...	...
88	63	16.20 Integnat Tech	88	...	...	...
177	167	55.80 Integnat Tech	167	...	...	...
682	503	28.80 Integnat Tech	682	...	2.7	13.9
165	109	35.40 JOC Int	144	...	...	...
103	82	3.35 Jozon	82	...	9.7	...
320	280	21.80 Jewells Bros	295	...	2.7	21.2
74	48	5.82 Jerdec	58	...	...	...
5	3	4.02 Jost Group Wts	5	...	...	...
125	82	42.50 JSC Biomed	125	...	...	...
180	127	43.40 La Senza	180	...	...	...
180	137	27.30 Lancashire En	180	...	...	...
322	210	19.50 Lawrence	322	...	...	...
370	250	60.70 Lawrie Group	370	...	...	...
295	255	48.90 Le Riches Srs	295	...	...	...
15	12	0.22 Life Numbers Wts	15	...	...	...
7	7	4.19 Lon & Edin Publ	13	...	2.3	10.4
18	13	0.85 London Asia Pw	18	...	...	...
95	85	1.53 London Town	95	...	...	...
351	192	40.10 Lorain Grp	351	...	...	...
4	3	6.92 Lotteryking	4	...	...	...
14	1	0.30 Lotteryking Wts	14	...	...	...
25	12	7.72 Marx & Utas	25	...	3.1	17.6
135	70	0.58 Marine & Merc S	135	...	...	...
107	107	2.51 Mabo Hlps	110	...	...	...
12	11	4.32 Mears Group	12	...	...	...
117	92	52.90 Megalomed	99	...	...	...
184	79	1.01 Megalomed Wts	97	...	...	...
118	86	5.80 Melick	97	...	3.3	17.9
475	22	35.40 Memory Corp	22	...	...	...
45	21	18.00 Meteor Tech	27	...	...	...
42	20	0.42 Meteor Tech Wts	20	...	...	...
24	15	4.90 Melodrome Films	24	...	...	...
245	156	16.60 Moorepay	245	...	1.7	21.0
200	67	7.80 Mountshel	103	...	...	...
303	147	30.70 Mulberry Group	155	...	...	...
42	42	1.20 Mushkoda	42	...	...	...
17	17	1.32 NECA	18	...	...	...
340	285	21.50 NWF Grp	285	...	3.5	12.6
120	175	14.40 Nash (Wm)	205	...	5	4.2
101	65	0.25 Natsara Res Pps	65	...	...	...
360	330	8				

Australia's Shelf gas will satisfy Japanese

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA'S North West Shelf Project, in which BP has a one-sixth share, has moved towards realising its planned A\$6 billion (£3 billion) expansion by finally confirming that the project has sufficient reserves of gas to satisfy its eight key Japanese customers. The announcement ends 12 months of uncertainty about whether the project, off the west coast of Australia, could meet future demands of the Japanese or whether it needed to join forces with the rival Gorgon joint venture near by. Woodside Petroleum, operator of the A\$12 billion Shelf project, said: "Exploration and appraisal work has satisfied the joint venture partners that they have access to sufficient gas reserves to underpin the expansion of the project." The expansion, which will raise the capacity of production facilities from 7.5 million to 14.5 million tonnes a year, will be a turning point for the project, which has produced much lower rates of return than had been expected since it began production in 1989. Expansion will involve building two onshore liquefied natural gas processing trains next to existing facilities in Western Australia and developing additional offshore production facilities and shipping, with costs shared equally between the six partners. Woodside has put a formal proposal to the Japanese based on the new reserve estimates, indicating that the project has reserves of 35 trillion cubic feet of gas. Virtually all of the Shelf's current output goes to the eight Japanese gas and power utilities, which include Tokyo Electric Power Company and Osaka Gas Company, and they are expected to take the bulk of the future expanded output. Total export revenues from the project are expected to reach A\$3 billion this year, of which A\$2 billion will be from liquefied natural gas. In the year to December 1995, Woodside made an operating profit of A\$140 million from the Shelf project. The Japanese are expected to sign a letter of intent next year, with a formal 20-year sales contract to be signed in 1998.

Court threat to Deutsche Telekom flotation price

BY OLIVER AUGUST

THE price range for Deutsche Telekom shares, to be announced today, will be significantly lower than the German phone group had hoped. The flotation is being overshadowed by an EU court challenge in Brussels by six competitors over Deutsche's discount price scheme. They are seeking a court order which would give Deutsche until the end of the month to allow effective competition in Germany's wholesale phone market. This could affect the value of Deutsche, whose shares will begin trading on November 18 in the largest European public offering of 1996. The German Government is expected to reveal a price range of between DM23 and DM29 per share after a strongly worded report from Goldman Sachs, the US investment bank and its advisers, which rejected initial price estimates as unrealistic. Deutsche Bank and Dresdner Bank, which are arranging the global listing from Germany, had recommended a price of up to DM30. But Goldman Sachs analysts in New York downgraded their estimates by at least 15 per cent because of the various threats to Deutsche's future profitability. One of these risks is the EU court challenge to the group's position in the local phone wholesale market and the separate calls for a disposal of its cable television network. The German Post Ministry and Deutsche had failed to follow last summer's EU guidelines for allowing discount schemes without undermining competition, it is being claimed. Peter Bross, chief executive of Mannesmann Eurokom, said the Post Ministry had neglected to award any licences for setting up alternative communications networks to private telecoms companies. Deutsche is also being challenged to sell its network serving the German cable television market. Another risk facing potential investors is that Deutsche is shouldering debts of over £40 billion. It expects to pay off one third in four years, depending on its profitability. Michael Makris, fund manager at Oppenheim Capital Investments, said: "The fair value for us is around DM23 to DM24, but that's likely to be the lower end of the range. The initial offering price will probably be in the upper mid-20s."



In the driving seat: IMG Classic Sportscars, the classic motor car parts group, has been bought by its management for £8 million from the Knox D'Arny Trust. Pictured are Paul Cressy, the managing director, seated in car, and Mike Standring, marketing director, left. From the back on right are Stuart Warriner (Price Waterhouse), Graham Paddy (IMG), Paul Oldham, of 3i which provided equity, and Adam Blackaby, IMG

Clarke 'to target alcopops'

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, may take the fizz out of the "alcopop" boom by doubling the duty on the fashionable new drinks in next month's Budget, according to a team of City economists. The carbonated, fruit-flavoured drinks have been criticised for encouraging youngsters to drink alcohol. The UBS economists forecast that beer and wine duties would be raised broadly in line with inflation, currently running at 2.1 per cent, while the duty on spirits would rise at a slightly lower rate. Mr Clarke would cut 1p off the standard rate of income tax, to take it down from 24p in the pound to 23p, as another step towards the Government's eventual goal of 20p, according to the forecast.

Tory lead

Labour's claim to be the party of business suffered a blow with an opinion poll among small firms showing the Tories widening their lead. The survey, by the Small Business Research Centre at Kingston University for Office World, the stationery and office supplies stores group, gives the Tories a lead of 15.6 per cent among owners of small businesses, against a 9.7 per cent advantage in May. It shows 36.8 per cent supporting the Conservatives, with 21.2 per cent for Labour and 11 per cent the Lib Dems.

AIM listing

Beechcroft, a provider of retirement homes, is coming to the Alternative Investment Market. A share placing by Ellis & Partners will raise £1.94 million to fund expansion and will value the company at £5.6 million.

Barclays fund

Barclays Global Investors is expected to launch a new fund next month to invest in traded with-profit endowment assurance policies. A Stock Exchange listing will aim to raise around £20 million.

People 'delude themselves' on pension prosperity

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

MORE than one in ten pensioners are in debt, and a gulf exists between the expectations of working people and the realities of retirement, according to a survey by Barclays Life. The study of more than 2,500 people, one of the largest surveys of its kind undertaken in Britain, found that 12 per cent of pensioners are in debt. Of these, three quarters had managed to stay in credit during their working lives. Nearly 70 per cent of those questioned said that they felt they did not plan adequately for retirement. Eleven per cent of those in retirement who had taken holidays overseas while working found that they could no longer afford to do so, and a similar proportion said that they had had to give up going to restaurants. The study found that although people had high hopes of prosperity in retirement, few made provision to ensure financial security. Seventy-seven per cent of people expect a standard of living equal to, or better than, that at the peak of their working lives. However, nearly half of those with a pension - 44 per cent - make personal monthly contributions of £50 or less. Nigel Waite, marketing director of Barclays Life, said: "People are simply deluding themselves. The average annual wage in the UK is around £17,200. In order to maintain at least the equivalent value of this income post-retirement - taking state benefits into account - an individual must start a pension at 25, expect to retire at 65 and make monthly contributions of around £200, which would need to increase in line with national average earnings." Nearly 40 per cent of retired people questioned by the study said they did not think about planning for retirement until after stopping work. One in three now lives on a pension of £100 or less a month on top of the state pension.

NatWest charges the rich

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

THE end of the era of free banking will come a step nearer this week when NatWest Bank unveils details of a new current account for which it will make a charge. The bank has 6.5 million personal customers and intends to target the wealthier ones with the new package. It is expected to offer a package of current account, free life insurance cover, overdraft facility and discounted medical insurance. It already offers a free Primeline telephone banking service for customers earning over £20,000 and a Gold Plus service for people earning over £150,000, for which there is an annual fee of £80. The new account, details of which will be announced on Wednesday, will be offered from November 5. A spokesman said: "We are not changing our existing accounts but we are introducing one for which we will make a charge. We are looking at the well-heeled element of our customer base." Barclays already has a current account for which it charges. The service, known as Additions, was rolled out nationally last week. For a charge of £60 a year, customers receive free overdraft, life cover, and medical insurance. Midland Bank and Abbey National said they had no plans to make charges on accounts in credit.

Apple looks to the laptop for a greater slice of the action

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK



Amelio: aggressive strategy

APPLE COMPUTER, the troubled computer manufacturer, will today launch its new generation of upgraded Powerbook laptop computers as a key step in its strategy to convince consumers and financial markets that its problems are over. The new Powerbook will be important in keeping up the momentum Apple gained from last week's surprise announcement that it was back in profit to the tune of \$25 million for the last quarter despite Wall Street's expectations of further heavy losses. The company is desperate to stimulate consumer interest in the run-up to Christmas, the best quarter for sales. The new Powerbook 5300 is meant to catch up with competitors selling conventional personal computer laptops that run on Microsoft software, after Apple fell badly behind in recent years. Although the original Powerbook launched in the 1980s set new standards, Apple failed to keep up with the competition. "We stumbled last year," said Kate Paisley, an Apple spokeswoman. "We're rebuilding the Powerbook line but we need to get to first base. This signals that we are getting very aggressive and committed to the consumer market." Apple believes it has overcome the technical problems that plagued a new Powerbook last year when some machines burst into flames after being turned on. Although the new computers will look similar to the charcoal-grey laptops currently sold by Apple, the Powerbook 5300 will be much faster with a 117 megahertz Power PC chip and an enlarged 11.3 inch colour screen. It will also feature a CD-Rom drive for the first time, and will have 16 megabytes of memory. It will sell for between \$2,500 and \$4,000 in the US although prices have not yet been set for Britain and other overseas markets. The new Powerbook will go on sale in mid-November. Apple then plans to launch an even more powerful Powerbook that will match top-of-the-range PC laptops. The launch is part of an aggressive marketing strategy designed by Gilbert Amelio, the new chairman, that also includes deep price cuts on Apple's Perforator desktop computers. After a disastrous year of record losses in which market share slumped from over 8 per cent to 6 per cent, Apple's greatest problem is to reassure consumers that it is not on the rocks. But some Wall Street analysts are sceptical that a turnaround is taking place. "The decline in revenues has actually accelerated at Apple when the rest of the industry is growing strongly," said William Milton, computer analyst at Brown Brothers Harriman.

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WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 36
DIDYMITS
(b) Not something you would wish upon your worst enemy. Unless, of course, he did not know what you were talking about. Didymitis is inflammation of the testicles.
REDHIBITION
(c) The prohibition of a sale because of a defect in the article sold. A word to try when the priest asks whether you will take this person to be your lawful wedded spouse. "Are there redhibition rights on this contract? Only kidding."
OXYMORON
(c) A concise contradiction in terms, eg "cruel kindness", "beloved enemy", "harmonious discord" and "delicious haggis". From the Greek words for "bitter-sweet", themselves an oxymoron. The stock classical example is from Horace's *Regulus Ode, splendide mendax*. Teanyon: "His honour rooted in dishonour stood, / And faith unfaithful kept him falsely true." We are too accustomed to saying we are "awfully/terribly pleased" to notice that it is an oxymoron.
THAUMATURGE
(c) A wonder-worker or miracle man. From the Greek *thaumata* - wonders - *ergon* to perform. The medieval church applied this stock epithet to some of its saints, such as Gregory, Bishop of Neo-Caesaria, and Bernard, who was known as the *Thaumaturgos of the West*. The term has been progressively cheapened to include conjurers, TV evangelists and other such tricksters and fraudsters. The nearest modern equivalents to the medieval sense are the motorway instant mechanics employed by the AA and RAC.
SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE
After 1. Nxd5 Qxd5 2. Bxd5 Bxd5 3. Rf3 Nf4 4. Kg2 Nxf3 White's position is destroyed.

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European domination in the pipeline for Russian gas giant

Investors are queuing up for Gazprom offering, says Carl Mortished

Name a huge, over-manned, inefficient gas company in conflict with consumers and continually at war with the authorities. If you thought British Gas, think again. A better answer would be Gazprom.

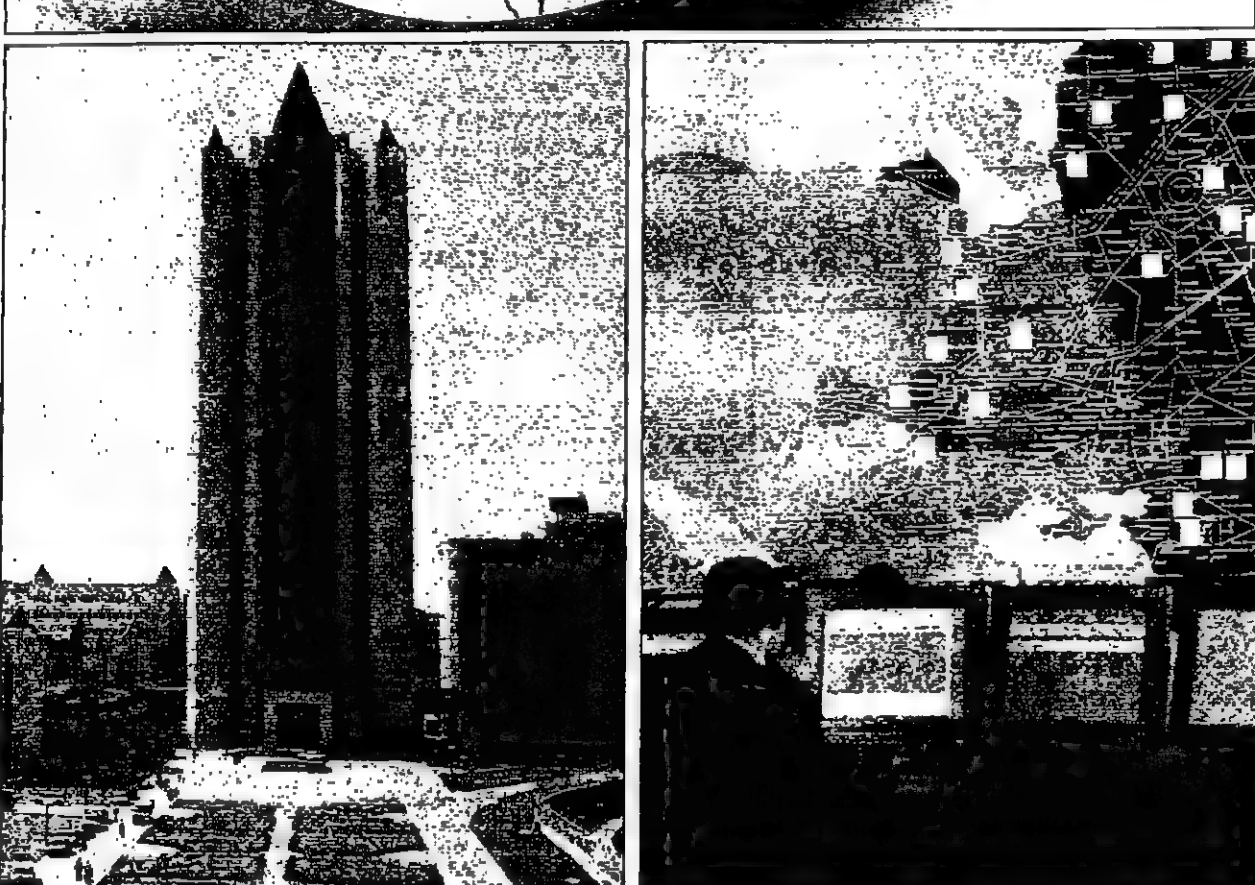
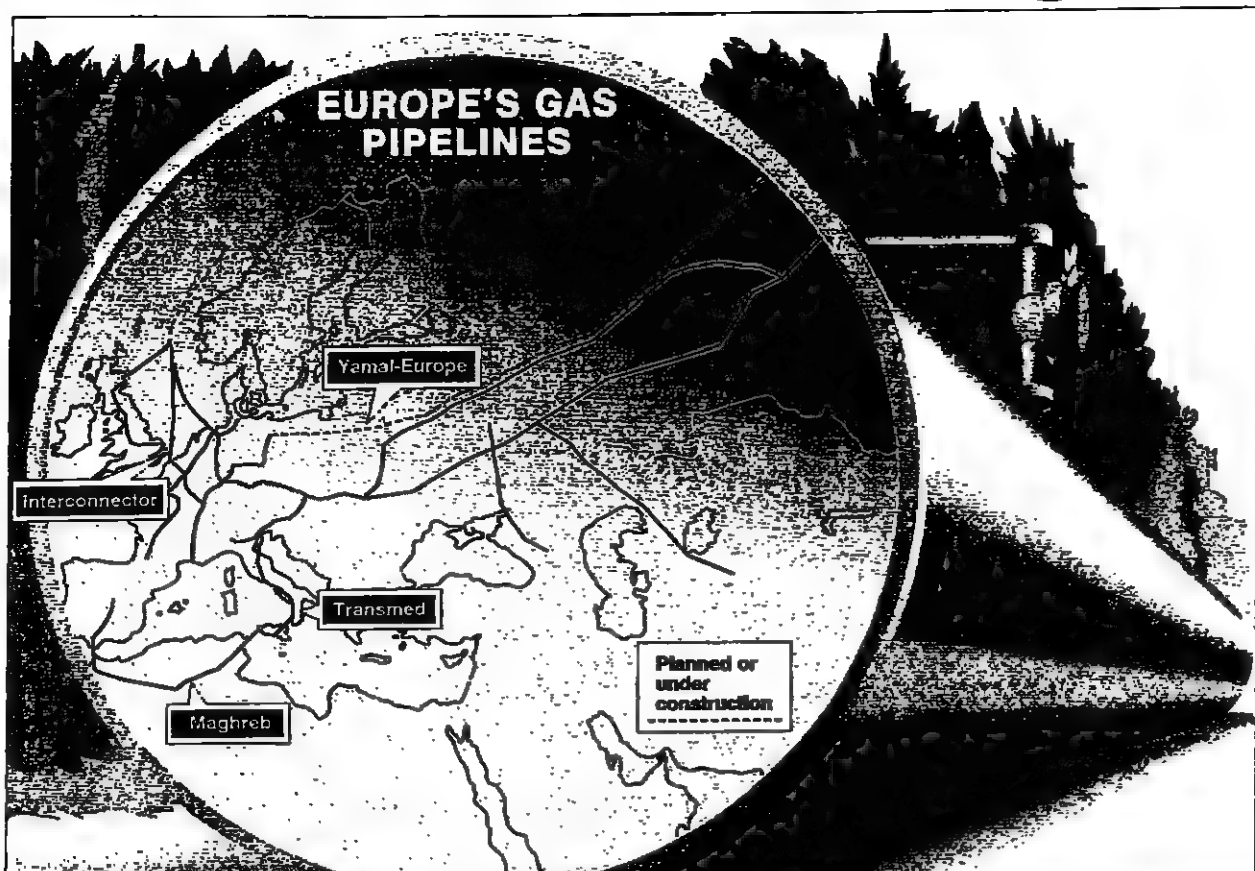
The Russian company beats our own gas utility on all counts. But that has not put off fund managers from the world's biggest financial institutions who have been queuing up to speak to the directors of the world's largest gas company. Gazprom's first international public offering is under way and interest is said to be strong for the 237 million shares available.

The reasons are not hard to understand and, again, have a lot to do with the scale of the operation, but also its nationality. Despite its difficulties, which include a bad debt problem of enormous proportions and an ambivalent attitude towards shareholders, Gazprom is a force to be reckoned with.

Gazprom could probably sell itself to foreign investors on the strength of its assets alone. Analysts at Morgan Stanley, lead manager to the public offering, reel off a list of superlatives when describing the company. Gazprom supplied 23 per cent of the gas consumed in Europe last year. With reserves of 30,000 billion cubic metres, it has enough to supply the whole of Western Europe at current rates of consumption for 115 years.

In fact, Gazprom has secured a good chunk of that market already. Iouri Komarov of Gazprom points to hefty market shares: 35 per cent in Germany, 34 per cent in France and 26 per cent in Italy. In Austria, the company reckons it is supplying 80 per cent of the market, and recent long-term contracts have increased its market share. He said that Gazprom's contracted take-or-pay obligations total 2,000 billion cubic metres of gas, a figure that is approaching the UK's total gas reserves.

Exports to Europe are important to Gazprom, generating \$8.2 billion, more than half of the group's annual revenue from only a quarter of its gas sales. Better prices in Europe are part of the explanation, but back home Gazprom can boast other superlatives, including a



World leader: Gazprom's headquarters in Moscow, from which it will run the Yamal pipeline, the cornerstone of its strategy

claim to the world's worst bad debt problem. The company is owed more than \$8 billion by Russian customers and last year received payment for only 62 per cent of the amount invoiced.

As a monopoly supplier with 40 per cent of its shares in the hands of the Russian state, which in turn is often the customer, Gazprom is unable

to act tough with non-payers. National security, social obligation and the Russian winter preclude cutting off supply. Instead, Gazprom plays an elaborate game with the authorities, sometimes withholding taxes in protest at the failure to pay bills. Recently, its bank accounts were temporarily frozen in a stand-off over \$2.8 billion in overdue taxes.

The solution to the cash flow problem is more exports, and Gazprom has ambitions to further penetrate Western Europe's gas markets. Its strategy has two prongs: increased export volumes and the extension of its reach into local markets.

Both parts of the strategy could become controversial. Efforts by the European Commission to open up continental domestic gas markets have

confronted a wall of government opposition and support for state gas monopolies. Moreover, these companies enjoy

healthy margins from high gas prices charged to consumers. The prospect of a surge in Russian exports is not welcomed by those who fear that Gazprom's plans could lead to a continental-sized gas bubble, one that would dwarf the UK's own gas surplus and cause prices to plunge.

The main object of their concern, and the cornerstone of Gazprom's strategy, is the Yamal pipeline that will pump the vast gas reserves of the Yamal peninsula to homes, factories and power plants in the north west of Europe. The 5,900km

long-term contracts that will quickly absorb the pipeline's capacity. Firm commitments are already in place to supply 25 billion cubic metres through the first pipeline, which is due to be completed next year, and Mr Komarov points to forecasts of a 40 to 50 per cent increase in the European gas market by 2010.

The Russians are building bridgeheads and laying down investments across Europe, in addition to joint ventures in Germany, Austria, France, Italy and Greece. Gazprom owns 10 per cent of the UK-Belgium gas Interconnector and Mr Komarov remarks: "You should not exclude the day when London is supplied with Russian gas."

the vast Groningen gas field will no longer be sufficient.

Gazprom is alive to the link between price and volume; the company wants to maintain margin while increasing its market share and has no reason to provoke a price collapse. Gas distribution in most of Europe is dominated by state monopolies, such as Snam in Italy and Gaz de France. Monopoly control has kept margins high on the continent. While prices paid to producers vary as little as 5 per cent, the price paid by consumers varies enormously.

Gazprom wants more of the downstream margin, and its efforts to move closer to consumers has been most successful in Germany. In 1989, the Russians set up Wings, a joint venture with Wintershall, the BASF gas subsidiary. Wings has been poaching business from Germany's main supplier, Ruhrgas, securing 10 per cent of the market in four years, while forcing down prices.

Gazprom would like to replicate that success elsewhere. As Mr Komarov puts it: "Gazprom is confident that it has huge reserves and Europe needs this gas." The only bar to another assault on a cosy European monopoly is the bar on third-party access to pipelines, a restriction that the EU has failed to remove. Nevertheless, Gazprom is forging ahead, securing a joint venture with Edison in Italy to build a pipeline which could eventually put an end to Snam's stranglehold on the Italian market.

But the gas industry is not standing still while Gazprom moves its pieces across the European chessboard. BP is investing more than \$3 billion to produce gas in Algeria. The Transmed pipeline already pipes North African gas to Europe, and another route is about to open: the Maghreb pipeline will send Algerian gas across the Strait of Gibraltar to Spain, Portugal and, eventually, France. The Interconnector will soon bring cheap UK gas to Belgium and Holland and, by the beginning of the next century, liquefied natural gas from Shell's project in Nigeria will be arriving by tanker in Mediterranean ports.

The conclusion must be that European gas prices will soon begin to fall, and that spells trouble for state monopolies and high-cost producers. Gazprom has an important advantage: its production costs are low, estimated at 10 cents per thousand cubic feet, compared with 60 cents in the UK and \$1.30 in Norway. Counting against the Russians is the cost of transport, exacerbated by existing pipelines through the Ukraine, where Gazprom suffers heavy tariffs.

For investors, concern remains about the lack, so far, of an audited revenue account, bad debts and an ambiguous attitude to investors. Within Russia, private share transfers to foreign investors must be approved, although the current ADS offering of will not be so controlled. Political turmoil is a concern, but whatever government prevails, it cannot afford to thumb its nose at Gazprom's dollar earnings; and if it continues to extend its reach in Europe, ignoring Gazprom will not be an option for foreign investors.

RADIO CHOICE

Devilish kind of revenge

The Monday Play: The Devil's Kiss. Radio 4, 7.45pm.

A quiet word in your ear, please, if you suffer from arachnophobia and intend listening to Stephen Dunstone's play. The word is don't, because you might find yourself looking down at your feet in apprehension. The plot of *The Devil's Kiss* is infested with killer spiders. They are the way in which the Devil (Keith Drinkell), whispering in the way that theatrical villains tend to do, avenges himself on a 14th century Yorkshire village after a pregnant woman breaks a pact with him. Give me your unbaptised baby, he tells her, and I'll stop the lord of the manor imposing crazy tasks on the sorely tried villagers. *The Devil's Kiss* is generous with its screams and howls and general consternation. Too generous, sometimes. What's happening to speech on radio?

Between the Ears. Radio 3, 10.45pm.

Producer Alan Hall calls it a celebration of the diversity of performances, and he's right. I've rarely heard such diversity on radio. Whether musical purists will approve of the celebrations is something else again. This is Beethoven's Fifth as you will never have heard it before. Its chronological shape is unchanged, and we get frequent reminders of the work as orchestrated. But Hall has created an astonishing alternative Fifth, using piano arrangements, machines, pop groups such as Roaring Jelly and, wonder of wonders, barking dogs.

Peter Daville

RADIO 1

6.30am Chris Evans 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa 1.00 Anson 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier 7.00 Evening Session with Jo Whiley and Steve Lamacq 8.00 In Concert: Suede Recorded live at the Kibum National in North London 10.00 Mark Radcliffe 12.00 Claire Sturgess 4.00am Chris Warren

RADIO 2

6.00am Martin Kellner 7.30 Sarah Kennedy 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Kate Aske 1.30pm Debbie Dingle 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.00 John Dunn 7.00 Hubert Grogg 7.30 Melvyn Lacey with Danos Band Days 8.30 Big Band Special 9.00 Humphrey Lyttelton 10.00 Star Spangled Voices. A series focusing on American singing groups at the 1940s (3/5) 10.30 The Jamieson 12.05am Adrian Fringer 3.00 Alex Lester, Inc. Pause for Thought

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am Morning Reports, not at 5.45 Wake Up to money 6.00 The Breakfast Programme Inc at 6.55 7.35 morning preview 8.35 The Magazine, with Diane Maclellan, Inc at 10.35 News from Europe 12.00 Midday with Mark, not at 12.35pm Moneycheck 2.05 Russia on Five 4.00 Nationwide, Inc at 5.45 Entertainment News 7.00 News Extra, not at 7.30 Sports Bulletin 7.35 Football Legends Featuring George Horne, the captain of Middlesbrough and England 8.00 European Football Show 10.05 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra 12.05am The Chris Side of Midnight 2.05 All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Early Breakfast 7.00 Paul Ross 8.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Anna Rumb 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 DriveTime, with Peter Dinkley 7.00 Mac Deane's Sportszone 10.00 James White 1.00am Ian Collins

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air. Presented by Andrew Macgregor, includes Fauré (Piano Quartet in D minor, Op 89) and Tausch (Concerto in B flat for two clarinets) 9.00 Morning Collection, with Catherine Young, includes C.P.E. Bach (Symphony in E, Wq182 No 8); Britten (Serenade for Strings) 10.00 Musical Encounters, with Patrick Lambert, Ravi Shankar (Sitar), Couperin (Trio Sonata in D minor, La Sultane) 12.00 Composer of the Week: Max Reger. Reger's output was as prodigious as his legendary appetite for food and drink. Includes String Quartet in D minor, Op 74, Andante con Variazioni; Andante, Op 75 No 11; Ensamble, Op 75 No 18; Variations and Fugue on a Theme of Mozart

1.00pm News; BBC Lunchtime Concert. Live from St John's, Smith Square, London. The Lindseys: John Casten (Singing Quartet No 2); Mozart (Singing Quartet in G, K468) 2.00 Orchestral Encounters, under John Lubbock, Emma Johnson, clarinet; Tippett (Overtures on Sellinger's Round); Berwald (Sinfonia Singolare); Taverne (The Repentant Thief); Britten (Variations and Fugue on a Theme of Purcell) 3.40 Out of the Air. Lord Healey remembers Man of Action 3.45 Voices. Boje Kovovic (1) 4.30 The Jazzbox. Wellin. The swing era provided chances for Stuff Smith, Ray Nance and Svend Asmussen

RADIO 4

5.55 Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Fanning Today 6.30 Prayer for the Day 8.30 Today 8.40 Who Goes Home 8.58 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Start of the Week, with Melvyn Bragg, Melanie Phillips, Norman Davies, Peter Hennessy, Richard Nott and Times columnist Angela Levinson 10.00 News; The Seven Deadly Virgins (FBI); Humility (2/7) 10.01 Daily Service (LW) 10.15 On This Day (LW) 10.30 Woman's Hour 11.30 Money Box Live: 0171-580 4444. Vincent Dugganley takes listeners' calls on a topical issue affecting personal finances 12.00 News; You and Yours 12.25pm The Labour Exchange. Paddy McGrath chairs the panel game in which two professionals illustrate their work. Team captains are the comedians Tony Hawks and Stephen Frost 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke 1.40 The Archers (1) 1.55 News; Hand in Glove. A new drama series by Stephen Mulrine, set in 1920s Stirling. A pathologist is called in to examine the body of a five-month-old child. With Liam Brennan, Marilyn James and Owen Kavanagh (1/3) 3.00 The Afternoon Shift. Prof. 6.05 Kaleidoscope. Lynne Walker visits a new conservation centre in Liverpool and sees Ciri Richard as Heathcliff in the new musical 4.05 Short Story: Patience, by Frances Galloway. A woman's patience finally runs out with her husband. Read by Ann Beach 5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping 5.58 Weather 6.00 Six o'clock News 6.30 News 7.05 The Archers 7.20 The Food Programme, with Derek Cooper (1) 7.45 The Monday Play: The Devil's Kiss. See Choice 9.15 Irish Icons: The Harp A series of programmes exploring how certain people, places or things have assumed iconic status in Ireland 9.30 Kaleidoscope (1) 9.58 Weather 10.00 The World Tonight, with Isobel Hilton 10.45 Bookers at Bedtime. An extract from *Atlas Grace*, by Margaret Atwood 11.00 Beyond Reasonable Doubt (FBI): The Clapham Common Murder. In January 1911, a body found in South London leads the police to the murky underworld of the East End. With Malcolm Ward, David Timson and Keith Drinkell (1) 11.30 Education Matters (LW) 11.35 If You're So Clever, Why Aren't You Rich? Slaming Douglas Hodge, Amanda Root and Paul Blythe as the not-so-young hopefuls Giles, Judith and David (1) 12.00 News Inc 12.27am approx Weather 12.30 The Late Book: Primary Lessons, by Joe Klein. Read by Charles Peters (B71) 12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE

RADIO 1. FM 97.8-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.8. LW 158. MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 625.5. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648. LW 106.5. MW 1197. 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 10.02. VIRGIN RADIO. FM radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Pleasures of the flesh

TO GROUPE Chez Gérard, where Laurence Isaacson and Neville Abraham continue their passionate campaign against "the relentless onslaught of vegetarianism and its myths". Their Carnivores Club holds its tenth gathering this Wednesday at the Butchers' Hall in Smithfield's. Guest speakers are Jennifer Patterson and Clarissa Dickson Wright, also known as Two Fat Ladies, and Frances Bissell. *The Times Cook and author of The Real Meat Cookbook*. The club proclaims it is the perfect excuse for an evening of free-flowing red wine and bloody meat. Vegetarians enter at their peril.

Grey day

JAMIE CAMPBELL, marketing director of Jupiter Asset Management, is very angry with his vet. A week ago or so, his year-old African Grey Parrot was taken to have his wings clipped. When the defeated



Neville Abraham, left, with Laurence Isaacson

creature returned home, Mr Campbell, in true Long John Silver-style, decided to perch the tropical bird on his shoulder and go for a walk. His other shoulder, meanwhile, was occupied by another parrot, presumably not a Norwegian Blue. The younger bird, feeding the call of the open air, promptly flew off. When the vet was contacted, he said he did not believe in wing clipping. Mr Campbell is understandably aggrieved. "If this was America I would sue," he said.

Mistaken ID

POOR old Ian Rosenblatt, senior partner of Rosenblatt's solicitors in the City, has had a terrible time since our story last week about controversial Sheffield businessman Stephen Hinchliffe's German business interests - which happen to be run by one Ian Rosenblatt. Of course, like the two Gordon Browns, one who owns the ailing *Sunday Business*, the other who presumes the ailing Tories, these are different people. The London

Ian Rosenblatt first realised about the case of mistaken identity when he received a call from his bank manager asking what he had been up to. Thankfully, he was able to reassure him he had not been commuting between Sheffield and Düsseldorf and is not involved in selling shoes.

Jubilant

STEPPING out of their company Jaguars this morning for a brisk walk will be some of Canary Wharf's illustrious tenants. Sir David Walker (Morgan Stanley), David Vaughan (Credit Suisse First Boston), David Alexander (Texaco), and Colette Bove (Personal Investment Authority) will join Michael Pickard, chairman of the London Docklands Development Corporation, in a walk from Canada Water to Canary Wharf the mark the final link in the construction of tunnels for the Jubilee Line extension. Joining them will be Sir Peter Middleton, chairman of BZW, which moves to Canary Wharf next year.

Opposition chief concedes heavy defeat in Japan's ballot battle

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

THE leader of Shinshinto, Japan's main opposition party, conceded defeat for his group after yesterday's general election.

Ichiro Ozawa said: "The results of the elections show that we fell far short of our goal of reaching a majority. We regret this very much."

The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) of Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Prime Minister, made big gains, but was unable to secure a majority in the House of Representatives. With almost all the votes counted in a poll fought under a new electoral system, the LDP had taken 239 of the 500 lower house seats compared with its pre-election strength of 211.

The right-wing Shinshinto trailed with 155 seats. The Communists took 26 in a strong showing that contrasted with the setback suffered by the Social Democrats, with 15 seats. The newly formed Democratic Party won 49 seats. Three seats remain to be decided.

After a poll remarkable for the low turnout, the LDP, the dominant party

it will make absolutely no difference to the way Japan is governed," was the explanation given by many Japanese who stayed away from polling stations.

Among those who did vote were Kin Narita, 104, and her twin sister Gin. They cast their ballots in Nagoya and, when asked how they had voted, Kin merely replied: "I forget."

Analysts said that politicians' antics in three years since the last election served to confirm voters' cynicism. In July 1993 the LDP lost its lower house majority after 38 years in power, although it remain the largest party. The stage seemed set for a real multi-party system, in which politicians could offer voters clear choices on issues rather than the customary pork-barrelling and pandering to special interest lobbies. The new electoral rules were supposed to help in bringing about such a system.

But instead of a new dawn, the end of the LDP's monopoly was merely the signal for an all-out scramble for a share of power. Parties fragmented, politicians switched allegiances and ideological differences became even more blurred than before.

After a year in the wilderness, the LDP wriggled its way back to power in a bizarre alliance with their traditional antagonists, the Social Democrats (as the Socialists renamed themselves). As the junior coalition partner, the former socialists jettisoned their remaining left-wing beliefs and, in a final insult to their loyal supporters, jumped ship on the eve of this election to join the Democratic Party. Typically, Yukio Hatoyama, the man who helped to found the Democratic Party, had first forsaken the LDP for the Sakigake Party before this latest defection and is now believed to be ready to join an alliance with his old party, the LDP, if offered the right job.

The depressing lesson of the election is that there is no serious challenger in Japanese politics to the Liberal Democrats, even if people are weary of them. Ryu Otomo, a writer and political commentator, said: "The turmoil of the past three years has played into the conservatives' hands. People have a feeling that all the opposition parties are unreliable."

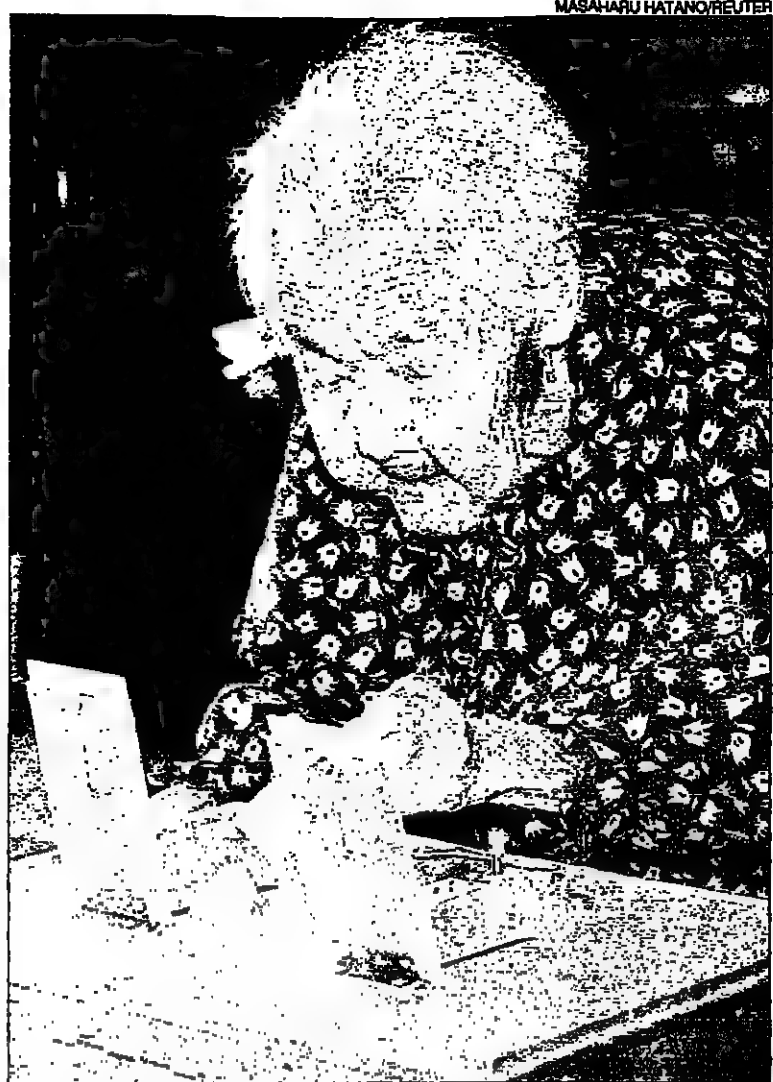
POLL RESULTS

in the ruling coalition, will be forced to renew its alliance with the Social Democratic Party (SDP) and the small Sakigake Party or seek new partners. "We need the co-operation of other parties," Mr Hashimoto said last night, adding that he was not sure who the allies might be.

Takako Doi, the SDP leader, repeated her campaign pledge that the party would not join a new LDP-dominated Cabinet. But Mr Hashimoto has a range of alternatives and may try to win the Democratic Party into a coalition arrangement.

With mild sunny weather prevailing in most of Japan, many of the 98 million eligible voters found better ways to spend their day than in choosing among the unappetising candidates. Voter turnout fell to a record low of an estimated 59 per cent, less than the previous low of 67 per cent in the general election of three years ago.

The exceptionally low turnout reflected widespread disillusion with the political parties. "Whatever the result,



Kin Narita, 104, who cast her ballot in yesterday's general election with her twin sister, Gin, told those who asked how she had voted: "I forget"

Election revamp meant to end faction feuds

Tokyo: Five hundred members of the Japanese lower house, the House of Representatives, will be chosen in the polls, the first since July 1993 and the first electoral test for Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Prime Minister.

Japan's old electoral system, under which party colleagues fought each other in multi-seat constituencies, was changed because of concern that it encouraged lavish campaigning and party faction fighting.

The lower house is the decisive parliamentary chamber, with the power to name the Prime Minister, ratify treaties and pass budget Bills. The Prime Minister must be a member of this chamber. Under the revised law, the new lower house will have 500 members, compared to 511 previously. Members serve four years, but the Prime Minister can dissolve the House any time. The 252-member

upper house cannot be dissolved, and half that chamber is elected every three years for six-year terms.

Under the new electoral system, 300 lower house members will be elected in single-seat districts and 200 will be chosen through proportional representation in 11 regional blocs.

At polling stations, voters are given two ballots, one for a candidate in the constituency and one for a party in the

NEW SYSTEM

regional blocs. Candidates standing in any single-seat constituency can also be listed for the proportional representation list, meaning that they might still be made lower house members even if they fail in a first-past-the-post contest. Single-seat winners are deleted from the PR list. (Reuters)

Blow to Deng as anti-corruption net catches allies

FROM JONATHAN MIRSEY IN HONG KONG

IN THE most deadly attack yet on the power base of Deng Xiaoping, China's moribund paramount leader, his son-in-law was yesterday reported to have been forced to resign from a senior army post, and a close colleague of one of Mr Deng's sons has been indicted on corruption charges.

Major-General He Ping, the husband of Deng Rong, Mr Deng's daughter and biographer, was the director of the People's Liberation Army armaments department, one of the state's main sources of export funds. He was also the president of Poly Corporation, a PLA affiliate, which bought and sold arms.

Last March when American federal agents seized 2,000 Chinese-made machineguns and their ammunition, worth more than \$4 million (£2.5 million), they were on the verge of a larger haul which was to have included shoulder-held ground-to-air missile launchers and mortars; this might have netted senior Poly executives, including General He, who was said to have been planning a trip to America. FBI agents accused other agencies of the Government of having tipped off the press about the "sting", to prevent embarrassment in Peking.

Although the Chinese officially denied any role in the smuggling operation, they were humiliated when the smuggling evidence, involving Poly and possibly General He, was laid before them.

The removal of General He is seen, therefore, as part of President Jiang Zemin's high-level anti-corruption campaign, most of whose victims in the past two years have been associated with Mr Deng, whose continuing influence, despite his great age of 92 and advanced decrepitude continues to block Mr Jiang's ambitions to solidify his role as "core leader". Ironically, he had been installed in this position by Mr Deng in July 1989, immediately after the Tiananmen massacre.

A more damaging shaft into the Deng circle was the an-

nouncement over the weekend of the laying of formal corruption charges against Zhou Beifang, who until 20 months ago, when he was detained in Peking, directed the Hong Kong operation of Shougang, a widespread empire centring on Peking's Shougang Iron and Steel, one of the biggest industrial complexes in China.

Mr Zhou's detention came two days after Zhou Guanyu, his father, was suddenly dismissed as Peking Shougang's chairman. The elder Zhou was a long-time army comrade of Mr Deng during the anti-Japanese and civil wars.

It is reported that Zhou Beifang, notorious in Hong Kong for his high-rolling life style, had embezzled huge sums to finance his luxurious existence here, when he was closely allied with some of Hong Kong's leading business magnates.

More embarrassing still to Mr Deng is that until his resignation, this spring his son, Zhifang, was a director of Shougang, Concord Grand, part of Peking Shougang's Hong Kong operation.

Named in the same case as Zhou Beifang are Chen Jian and Li Min. This at once draws him into the most spectacular corruption case in Peking since 1949, involving the woman mastermind of a fraud scheme amounting to £200 million. She was shot earlier this year.



Deng Rong, husband was targeted by Jiang

Britain rebukes Governor

New York: The British Ambassador to the United States, Sir John Kerr, has written a letter of protest to New York's Governor, George Pataki, after anti-British remarks the Governor made about the 19th-century Irish famine (Quentin Letts writes).

Mr Pataki compared British behaviour during the potato blight disaster with that of the Nazis' conduct towards the Jews. He ordered that the episode be taught in city schools as an example of human rights abuses.

Nicaragua votes

Elections in Nicaragua began peacefully with the latest opinion polls giving Arnoldo Alemán, of the conservative Liberal Alliance, a slight lead over Daniel Ortega, the former Marxist President.

Briton alive

Cambodia: Christopher Howes, a British mine-clearance specialist kidnapped in Cambodia seven months ago, is said to be alive and held by hardline Khmer Rouge at Anlong Veng. (Reuters)

Dengue toll

Delhi: The death toll from an outbreak of mosquito-borne dengue fever here has risen to 220, with 5,365 people admitted to hospital, but doctors said the rate of fatalities was steadily declining. (Reuters)

Family massacre

Istanbul: Two jealous Turkish brothers sprayed a house with bullets, murdering their wives and eight other people. They believed their wives were drinking alcohol with two men. (Reuters)

Jet 'belly-flop'

New York: La Guardia airport here was closed when a McDonnell Douglas 80 plane "belly-flopped" on landing after its undercarriage apparently hit airport warning lights. Nobody was injured.

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Frances Lawrence: "It would be arrogant of me to presume that I have said anything particularly pioneering. Necessarily, I have asked questions, not provided definitive answers. I can only hope that what I have said may strike a chord"

My manifesto for the nation

One thrust of a knife killed my husband and decimated the lives of my children and myself. The violence we read about every day, that we knew Philip encountered in his work and which we had discussed in depth, had destroyed a man of profound understanding and strength, a visionary.

Philip's pupils were denied an inspirational teacher who valued each of them as individuals with potential for greatness. It is a savage irony that Philip, whose values and example did so much to guide children through the maze of amorality, became, in one brutal moment, its victim. The values that he embodied must not die with him.

This is why I would wish to see the emergence of a nationwide movement, dedicated to healing our fractured society, banishing violence, ensuring that the next generation are equipped to be good citizens and urgently debating how the moral climate can be changed for the better. This "manifesto" contains no policies, pledges or plans of action: only my thoughts, observations and suggestions which I hope will be the stimuli to debate and a new movement.

Before his death, Philip and I had discussed how the slow deterioration of our civil society might be reversed. We were only too aware of how widespread lawlessness was. We were so deeply shocked by the murders of Jamie Bulger and Nikki Conroy: sweet innocents sacrificed to evil.

We sensed that there would be public support for action. Politicians have recently reflected a widespread concern about the fraying of civic bonds, the rise of moral relativism and an increase in violent crime. Thinkers and writers have argued for an abandonment of the "nec culture" which has led to selfish individualism in many areas.

It would be unrealistic to suggest that we live in a world where self-interest is not a dominant factor. Of course it is.

Material productivity is not wrong — but if the society surrounding it is in decay then its enjoyment is fragile and fugitive. We appear to have lost any true correspondence between materialism and humanity. The nation seems engaged in a process of reduction — of values, of principles, almost. It sometimes seems to me, of thought itself.

In the words of Sean O'Casey, "the whole world is in a state of chassis [chaos]". Faced with this

chaos, each of us must do what we can. Should this not be to turn energetically towards standards of decency and truth?

Each of us has the potential to be a force for good but I now believe that individual efforts are not enough and we need to rally the majority who have been silent for too long.

I have been encouraged by the thousands of letters I have received since Philip's death. In them is a yearning for action to restore a moral code to the centre of our national life. This is not nostalgia: it is an honest recognition that we are in danger of losing sight of fundamentals.

I am not calling for vociferous demonstrations, but a nationwide movement which encourages calm and quiet exploration of the problems and then campaigns intelligently for effective and effectual action. Its aim must be to overturn the culture of self-absorption in which others are treated as objects or impediments to our own satisfaction. Instead we must aim to nurture responsibility for ourselves and for others.

One of the most effective crime prevention measures is, surely, action to protect and encourage family life. The strongest influences upon a child are the earliest. Every child is born with, as it were, a "tabula rasa". In their early years, the primal influences that surround them may be positive or negative. These two forces are diametrically opposed. We have to find a way of ensuring that the positive ones prevail.

For example, children may be nurtured within the simple warmth of the family. If they receive loving support within a context where gentle authority and natural affection prevail, then they will treat other people as worthy of interest and respect. Relationships of all kinds will be more fruitful and life will seem a matter of co-operation rather than a vicious competition.

Deprived of the simple warmth of family life, however, children, for self-preservation, may have to seek refuge in the harsh, unfamiliar and tenuous camaraderie of the streets. Gangs, like those of the boy who murdered my husband, attract the unloved young and provide inane and ugly occupation.

Support for the family should be about more than making our streets safer in the future; it should signify the meaning of a civilised society. Governments can no longer afford to be neutral about the

The murder of headmaster Philip Lawrence by a teenager last December prompted national outrage. Here, his widow, Frances Lawrence, outlines her vision for a better society and calls for Britain to unite in a nationwide movement for change

THE AIMS

- Establish a nationwide movement to banish violence and encourage civic values
- Ban the sale of combat knives and close the shops that stock them
- Begin primary school lessons in good citizenship
- Raise the status of teachers and the police
- Governments must no longer be neutral on the family
- Parents must not allow children to lead separate lives within the home
- An emphasis in teaching on the three Es — effort, earnestness and excellence



Mrs Lawrence's favourite picture of her husband Philip

family. Families have a responsibility not to allow their homes to become atomised. Often, children are exiled to their rooms and kept quiet with videos or computer games which are substitutes for creative thought. Is it not horrifying to hear children airily dismiss reading books because they have information on a computer?

Indicative of this compartment culture is the fact that some schools find it necessary to hold "walk to school" campaigns, as so many children are ferried to school like freight behind plate glass.

It is a culture which deprives children of exploration so vital for growth. Further, it stunts appreciation of the natural world and denies the sense of awe which should be every child's heritage.

Philip believed that it was in raising the sights of the young that a redemptive process might begin. He chose to leave the independent sector for state schools because he wanted to work with children who were victims of low expectations. His faith meant he valued them all,

equally, as individuals with enormous potential for good. The tragedy of Learco Chindamo is that there was no one, like Philip, to show him what he might be.

It is in school that much can be done to ensure that our children adopt the values on which our civilisation depends. It seems to me that education must have a dual aim: to develop academic excellence — and to create desirable citizens.

I should like to see lessons in good citizenship begin very early in a child's school career. Schools should inculcate an appreciation of the civic bond, the respect we owe to others and the duties we owe to society.

The facility of getting and spending should be contrasted with the real richness of building personal relationships and making a difference in one's community. Although good citizenship should be its own reward, perhaps as an initial incentive, schools could establish a token system of prizes. I believe that politics, in the broadest sense, should

sphere that they cannot shirk hard choices in their private life.

As adults we may understand that dilemmas are not solved in three episodes of a soap opera. We have a duty to our children to explain how tough these moral choices sometimes are, instead of allowing them to absorb a bland, drive-thru McDonald's morality from the mass media.

The media also have a responsibility to face up to the consequences of their increasing reliance on an insidious barbarity in so many outlets. It is not just the casual violence of too many children's programmes, cartoons and computer games, but also the ugly imagery of so much advertising that concerns me. Television producers and advertisers should consider the consequences of harnessing such forces for commercial ends.

Teachers, like politicians, exert enormous influence. The status of politicians may be uncertain but that of teachers can be more clearly seen to have eroded over the years. Public perception has fed on the problems of bad teaching at the expense of the inspirational effect of good.

I would like to see a celebration of the many wonderful teachers we have in our schools and a greater awareness of what some of them have achieved. Of course we should be aware of the harm bad teaching does, but we must encourage emulation of the best.

Another profession whose status should be raised and whose voice should be increasingly heard is the police. Often they are thought of as authoritarian and even bullying. The suspicion exists that they are less than fair to some. My experience is totally removed from that. Since my husband's murder they have acted tirelessly, unstintingly and with meticulous application to the truth. They have displayed qualities which go far beyond any textbook notion of duty to support and sustain the children and myself.

Demonstrable sensitivity and instinctive moral rapport convince me that theirs would be a civilising influence in a national debate. Rather than being an oppressive voice, the police speak for the vulnerable. They embody a notion of service that we should do everything to support. I hope any new civic movement can count on their presence.

One immediate and concrete concern that I share with police officers is the availability of weapons on our streets. I admire the Snowdrop campaign and support

restrictions on gun ownership.

Guns are not, however, the only lethal weapons. My husband was killed with a knife which should never have been in a child's hand. Is it not shocking to discover how easy it is to acquire battlefield blades which can have no function other than to be flourished by the inadequate and cowardly? Their sale should be forbidden and the shops that stock them closed. Is this not, simply, common sense?

I have laid out some tentative and personal observations. Obviously there is much more that I and others must say. Lack of space at this time, not significance, has meant that in this document I have not touched overtly upon religion. Its abiding values are, of course, of paramount importance and, I would hope, one leading principle of this document.

Representatives of all faiths will be vital members of future debate. It would be arrogant of me to presume that I have said anything particularly pioneering. Necessarily, I have asked questions, not provided definitive answers.

I can only hope that what I have said may strike a chord and prompt others, better qualified than I, to provide answers and leadership. In the Seventies, Northern Ireland saw citizens' power in action in the inspiring example of the Peace People.

They did not win the peace they worked so hard for — but their public presence and agitation laid the seeds for the efforts towards peace which brought a respite and which may bring something more enduring.

By making a stand they reassured that Ulster's majority wanted nothing to do with the violence committed in their name. I hope that if enough of us make a stand, we can build another kind of peace. Civic peace.

When a tree is cut down it falls with a crash: as it grows, it makes no sound. The process of building is always by degrees but the process of destruction is sudden enough to command headlines.

My hope is that out of the terrible violence that pierced the heart of my family and generated such headlines, a new ethos may be constructed in which neglected virtues are reinstated and cherished and sustained.

Letters to Mrs Lawrence can be sent to The Times care of the Editor's office. © Frances Lawrence, 1996

Baseball and the theory of evolution

America's national sport can throw fresh light on Darwin's thoughts, according to Stephen Jay Gould

Having seen off the Creator, science is now aiming its heavy artillery at the idea of progress. Dimly as most of us understand evolution, we tend to see it as a process of improvement, starting from single-celled creatures and ending with the glories of Western civilisation. How can such a transformation be seen as anything other than progress?

Easily, says Stephen Jay Gould in his latest book, *Life's Grandeur*. The truth is that natural selection, Darwin's great idea, offers no statement about general progress, and provides no mechanism by which it could come about. Darwin himself was reluctant to use the word evolution at all because of its overtones of progress, preferring the phrase "descent with modification". He disliked labelling species as "higher" or "lower" and in a letter written in 1872 said: "After long reflection, I cannot assent to the conviction that no innate tendency to progressive development exists."

The recipient of that letter was Alpheus Hyatt, who occupied the office at the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard that now houses Professor Gould. This is the kind of historical echo that delights Gould, as readers of his many books will know. They reach their destination circuitously, through many byways overgrown with speculation and littered with long-disproven hypotheses.

Life's Grandeur is a good example, devoting almost half its space to baseball, which, along with Darwin and evolution, is one of Gould's passions. The puzzle he addresses is the disappearance of the 0.400 batter, a species that apparently went extinct more than half a century ago. A player with an average of 0.400, he explains in a foreword for British readers, means four hits for every ten times at bat. Always rare and the mark of an extraordinary player, it was last achieved by Ted Williams in 1941.



NIGEL HAWKES

Does this mean that the quality of baseball players has declined? Not at all, since all the evidence suggests the opposite. Statistics suggest that baseball has shared the general improvement in athletic performance shown by other sports. Professor Gould's argument is the paradoxical one that the heavy hitters have disappeared as a consequence not of decline, but of improvement. As this has happened, the bell curve of variance about the mean has narrowed, the extreme values on the right and left tails of the curve being shaved off. The mean — a batting average of 0.260 — has remained fixed as the rules have been adjusted to maintain a balance between batters and hitters. But instead of the averages of all batters being distributed in a flatish curve about this mean, it has become a much skinnier curve. The extremes, awful batters at one end and outstanding ones at the other, have been swallowed up. The statistics to prove this are in the *Baseball Encyclopedia*. The wisdom of the game, and Professor Gould used a spell in bed recovering from cancer in the early 1980s to extract and plot them. The regularity of the baseball data stunned Professor Gould. Their excep-



Baseball data examined by Professor Gould perfectly fitted his theories on the game. Similar arguments, he thinks, underlie the evolution of living things

tional smoothness and perfect fit with the hypothesis makes them look, he writes, "like a law of nature". He assumes that at the upper end of the batting averages there is a "wall" — a limit on human performance that constrains ultimate achievement. Squeezed by this wall, the curve that covers the averages of all major league batters has become steeper and narrower. The ability to outperform the rest by achieving a 0.400 average has been lost.

Similar arguments, though turned inside out, underlie the evolution of living things. Here Gould's target is the idea of evolution as progress, which he sees as a heresy. He quotes with a shiver some words by Edward O Wilson: "Progress is a property of the evolution of life by almost any conceivable intuitive standard, including the acquisition of goals and intentions in the behaviour of animals... let us not pretend to deny in our philosophy what we know in our hearts to be true."

This is the essence of Gould's argument over progress. We cannot say, because a distribution has a more far-flung extreme, that it has progressed. Life began with bacteria, and bacteria are still the commonest life form — found in billions in a gram of garden soil and packed 100,000 per square centimetre of human skin. There has not really been an Age of Reptiles, or an Age of Mammals, says Gould: every age has been the Age of Bacteria.

If the tape of evolution could be run again, bacteria would still dominate but there is no reason to believe that vertebrates, or man, would emerge at all, he argues. The chances that this alternative set of species would contain anything remotely like a human being "must be effectively nil". We are very lucky indeed to be alive.

The extraordinary thing about this argument is that it would have seemed obvious to Darwin. Never a believer in the inevitability of progress, he did not emphasise this unpalatable view for fear of alarming Victorian society. He had deposed God, and that was enough; to demolish the idea of biological progress was too shocking to contemplate, as it remains for many people today. "There is a grandeur in this view of life," he declared, providing Gould's title. It is a measure of our attachment to the idea of progress that it has taken more than a century to understand what he really meant.

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'I felt sorry for Paula. I was wrong. She was tough'

Gerry Agar wanted to make Paula Yates a star, but she resigned instead. Interview by Noreen Taylor
Picture by Peter Nichols



"Paula and Michael must admit they are evolving"

I am so, so grateful to Fergie, dear, dear Fergie, and now Jerry Hall. Both of them — darlings. They've saved me. Saved me from more headlines. At last, I'm off the front pages."

Gerry Agar pats the spot that is her heart, somewhere beneath her leopard-print jacket, and sighs in relief. A perfectly natural reaction in the circumstances from one who has escaped from a potentially godawful scenario.

You see, Gerry found herself somewhat marooned recently, facing a moral crossroads in how she puts it. I'm assuming, by the way, you are aware that after a year, she has resigned as PR supremo to Paula Yates and Michael Hutchence. Splendid.

Then obviously you know her resignation was prompted by a police raid on Paula's Chelsea house — the one she once shared with Bob Geldof and their three daughters and now lives in with Michael and their new daughter, Heavenly Haraani Tiger Lily.

And how the police raid is subsequently alleged to have uncovered a quantity of opium and a set of interesting photographs of Paula and her INXS rocker lover.

Now can we return to the moral highway? "There were two roads, theirs and mine," explains Gerry, who is fashionably pale and thin and frightfully intense in a New Age way.

Smart, knowing, at the cutting edge of the PR world, is close to Gerry's self-image, the one she's portraying as she sits cross-legged on her neighbour's bed with a look that perhaps can be best described as philosophical.

What do you mean, what is she doing on her neighbour's bed? She's in hiding from the press. So why is she talking to... Because this is an interview, an in-depth piece exploring Gerry's real views and thoughts on Paula. Please continue Gerry: "For me there was only one road, I'm afraid. The road of standards. I come from a family who served in India, you see. My childhood in

Cornwall was practically Victorian. Now I feel proud, perhaps a little frightened. But I have taken a stand.

"I handed my life over to Paula. Was at her beck and call round the clock. Telephones all night, and at weekends. My children, my life, my friends: everything went on

hold. My position was similar to that of poor Jane Adkinson who worked for Diana, Princess of Wales, before she was fired. Now, at last, I can concentrate on my other clients, too." A busy PR woman then? "Can't help it. I'm afraid. Adore networking. Paula knew that, said I was practi-

cally indispensable. My loyalty, my dedication was never in question. Paula can be a very seductive person."

How so? With you? Michael? "Oh, with me. Nothing was quite how I assumed it would be... They thought I was sweet because I used to ask if they thought I should let someone kiss me after a fourth date." Gerry is a 35-year-old divorcee with two children, Tom and Sophie, and remains on civilised terms with her ex-husband, Nicholas Forrester Agar, a Lloyd's broker.

Tom, who is eight, used to go to school with Pixie Geldof, Paula's four-year-old daughter, which is how she and Paula met. Tom is now a new boy at Ludgrove, Prince Harry's school.

So why did Gerry, who insists she's not really a prude, become involved with Paula in the first place? "Because I felt sorry for Paula and knew she was awfully unhappy with Bob. Paula's a very needy person. Someone with a big, deep emotional hole that constantly needs filling, who's never found true contentment since the hole is insatiable."

"Paula knew of my skills. She needed me. She desperately wanted a television show of her own. But no one would even see her."

"The reactions of television companies when I came on the scene was one of 'we're talking damaged goods here'. A passé female, yesterday's woman is what they meant. Right. And I felt sorry for her, protective, but then that's me. I was wrong. Paula was much tougher, much more resilient than my early impressions."

"I only see the good in people. I'd describe myself as a bit of a helper, a people person. OK, call me gullible. I told Paula and Michael that the public needed to redirect their way of seeing them."

"I said if you want to get back into TV, Paula, do a column for someone other than *The Sun*. Maybe the *Mail*, or *The Express*. Young, caring mother stuff would be more appropriate because all the public is seeing now is someone who's left Saint Bob for a rock star. She's awfully intelligent, Paula."

"I spoke to television people, urging them to give her a chance, stressing her unpredictability, her originality, her sassiness, how she makes good viewing, and boy, does she sell papers! It worked. Before the drug bust, my fax machine was inundated with television offers for her."

Gerry hastens to add that she did not countenance that embarrassing appearance of Paula's on *Have I Got News For You* when Dayton, Hislop & Co smelt blood, aimed their knives, and went on to slash her into bite-sized pieces.

Rescuing Michael's public profile proved even more irksome. "His management couldn't see past the heavy



"Paula's a very needy person. Someone with a big, deep emotional hole that constantly needs filling. She needed me"

rock number. I kept saying, 'Michael, you do not beat up photographers.' After all he's 38, hardly rock's wild youth. 'Michael, you speak to journalists as though they are your friends, not ogres.' This business is about contacts, credit building. So I threw a series of drinks parties in my home so that he might meet the press in a social setting. All surprising-

ly successful. Remember Mick Jagger's image? How it changed after he was caught looking round Benenden as a potential school for his daughter, Jade. Just so happens Princess Anne went there. Overnight, what do you have? Sophisticated awareness, of course. Then he's seen at a couple of art galleries.

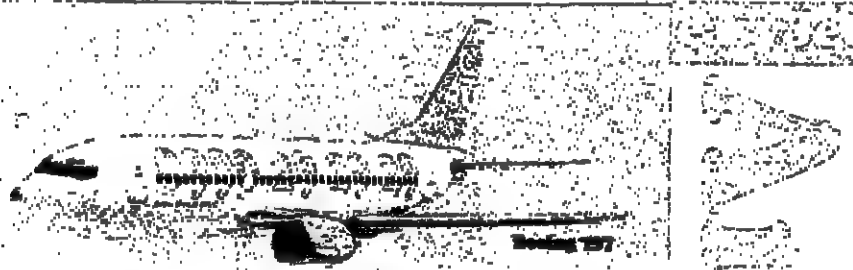
"And that's exactly the kind of remake I had envisaged for Michael. In one interview, I talked of how he had read Baroness Thatcher's memoirs, described him as a genius. Wildean, appreciated by only a few artists, gays and aristos. 'I'd practically turned his image around. When the baby was born, I pushed him towards reporters who gathered at the hospital. After that he looked so good, a bloody hero, new Dr Spock practically.'

"Now, I'm afraid it's all collapsed. He's started hitting photographers again. You see, I'm naive. Paula never drank or smoked. When we went out together, it would be to a quiet little Italian restaurant, where

we'd drink water. Phew! What I could say on certain matters. Make myself a fortune if I chose to. But I'm not going to."

When asked to forecast Paula and Michael's future, Gerry looks out of the window, meaningfully, before replying: "Sad, really, if I'm being honest."

Then suddenly, sadness gives way to jaunty optimism, as though she has received some inner message. "What Michael and Paula must do is admit openly: 'We are evolving, give us time. We are moving forward in a productive way.' Just as Bob has done. He took the children to their house in the country, sat them down and said: 'Look, there's a story going on, that's why all the photographers are outside. We must accept what's happening and work round it.' Now that's what I mean about moving forward." If you live on Planet PR, then I'm sure it's all terribly clear.



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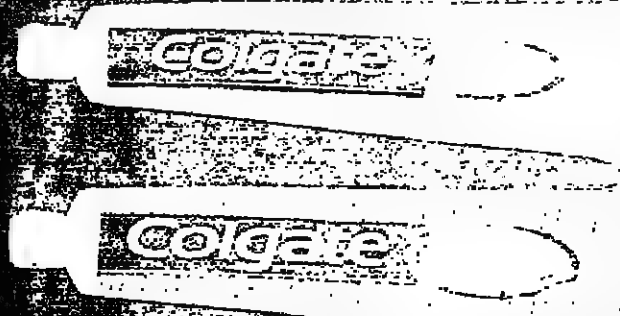
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When the Nobel prizewinner **Joseph Brodsky** died in January, the world lost one of its finest poets. In the first of two excerpts from his collected essays, he argues that to develop good taste in literature one must first learn to read poetry — the most concise way of conveying the human experience

On the whole, books are less finite than ourselves. Often they sit on the shelves absorbing dust long after the writer has turned into a handful of dust — and it is precisely the appetite for this posthumous dimension that sets one's pen in motion.

So as we toss and turn these rectangular objects in our hands we won't be terribly amiss if we surmise that we fondle, as it were, the urns with our returning ashes. After all, what goes into writing a book is, ultimately, a man's only life. Whoever said that to philosophise is an exercise in dying was right in more ways than one: for by writing a book nobody gets younger.

Nor does one become any younger by reading one. Since this is so, our natural preference should be for good books. The paradox, however, lies in the fact that in literature "good" is defined by its distinction from "bad". What's more, to write a good book, a writer must read a great deal of pulp — otherwise he won't be able to develop the necessary criteria. That's what may constitute bad literature's best defence at the Last Judgment.

Since we are all moribund, and since reading books is time-consuming, we must devise a system that allows us a semblance of economy. Of course, there is no denying the pleasure of holding up with a fat, slow-moving, mediocre novel: but in the end, we read not for reading's sake but to learn. Hence the need for the works that bring the human predicament into its sharpest possible focus. Hence, too, the need for some compass in the ocean of available printed matter.

The role of that compass, of course, is played by literary criticism, by reviewers. Alas, its needle oscillates wildly. What is north for some is south for others. The trouble with a reviewer is threefold: (a) he can be a hack, and as ignorant as ourselves; (b) he can have strong predilections for a certain kind of writing or simply be on the take with the publishing industry; and (c) if he is a writer of talent, he will turn his review writing into an independent art form — Jorge Luis Borges is a case in point — and you may end up reading reviews rather than the books.

In any case, you find yourselves adrift in the ocean, clinging to a raft whose ability to stay afloat you are not so sure of. The alternative, therefore, would be to develop your own taste, to build your own compass, to familiarise yourself, as it were, with particular stars and

How to read a book

constellations — dim or bright but always remote. This, however, takes a hell of a lot of time and you may easily find yourself old and grey, heading for the exit with a lousy volume under your arm.

So where is one's terra firma, even though it may be but an uninhabitable island? Where is our good Man Friday? Before I come up with my suggestion, I'd like to say a few words about this solution's source, i.e. about my humble self — not because of my personal vanity, but because I believe that the value of an idea is related to the context in which it emerges. Indeed, had I been a publisher, I'd be putting on my books' covers not only their authors' names but also the exact age at which they composed this or that work, to enable their readers to decide whether they care to reckon with the views contained in a book written by a person so much younger — or so much older — than themselves.

The source of the suggestion to come belongs to the category of people for whom literature has always been a matter of some hundred names; to the people who feel awkward at large gatherings, do not dance at parties, tend to find metaphysical excuses for adultery, and are finicky about discussing politics; the people who dislike themselves far more than their detractors do; who still prefer alcohol and tobacco to heroin or marijuana — those who, in W. H. Auden's words, "one will not find on the barricades and who never shoot themselves or their lovers". If such people occasionally find themselves swimming in their blood on the floor of prison cells or speaking from a platform, it is because they object not to some particular injus-

tice but the order of the world as a whole.

They have no illusions about the objectivity of their views; on the contrary, they insist on their unparadigmatic subjectivity. They act in this fashion, however, not for the purpose of shielding themselves from possible attack. Taking the stance opposite to Darwinian — they consider vulnerability the primary trait of living matter. This has less to do with masochistic tendencies than with their instinctive knowledge that extreme subjectivity, prejudice, and indeed idiosyncrasy are what help art to avoid cliché. And the resistance to cliché is what distinguishes art from life.

Now that you know the background of what I am about to say, I may just as well say it: The way to develop good taste in literature is to read poetry. If you think that I am speaking out of professional partisanship, you are mistaken: I am not a union man. The point is that being the supreme form of human locution, poetry is not only the most concise way of conveying the human experience; it also offers the highest possible standards for any linguistic operation — especially one on paper.

The more one reads poetry, the less tolerant one becomes of any sort of verbosity. A child of epigram and epigram, poetry is a great disciplinarian to prose. It teaches the latter not only the value of each word but also the mercurial mental patterns of the species, alternatives to linear composition, the knack of omitting the self-evident, emphasis on detail, the technique of anti-climax. Above all, poetry develops

in prose that appetite for metaphysics which distinguishes a work of art from mere belles lettres.

Please, don't get me wrong: I am not trying to debunk prose. The truth of the matter is that literature started with poetry, with the song of a nomad that predates the scribbles of a settler. All I am trying to do is to be practical and spare your eyesight and brain cells a lot of useless printed matter. Poetry, one might say, has been invented for just this purpose.

All you have to do is arm yourselves with the works of poets in your mother tongue, preferably from the first half of this century, and you will be in great shape.

If your mother tongue is English, I might recommend to you Robert Frost, Thomas Hardy, W. B. Yeats, T. S. Eliot, W. H. Auden, Marianne Moore and Elizabeth Bishop.

If the language is German, Rainer Maria Rilke and Gottfried Benn. If it is Spanish, Federico Garcia Lorca and Octavio Paz will do. If the language is Polish — or if you know Polish (which would be to your great advantage, because the most extraordinary poetry of this century is written in that language) — I'd like to mention Leopold Staff and Wislawa Szymborska.

If it is French, then of course Guillaume Apollinaire. If it is Greek, then you should read Constantine Cavafy. If it is Dutch, then it should be Martinus Nijhoff. If it is Portuguese, you should read Fernando Pessoa. If it is Russian, Marina Tsvetaeva and Boris Pasternak. If it is Italian, Salvatore Quasimodo and Eugenio Montale.

If, after going through the works of any of these, you drop a book of prose picked from the shelf, it won't be your fault. If you continue to read it, that will be to the author's credit; that will mean that this author has something to add to the truth about our existence. Or else, it would mean that reading is your incurable addiction. As additions go, it is not the worst.

● Abridged from On Grief and Reason: Essays by Joseph Brodsky, published by Hamish Hamilton on October 31, £22. Published by Hamish Hamilton on the same date is So Forth, Joseph Brodsky's final collection of poems, £15. © Joseph Brodsky 1996



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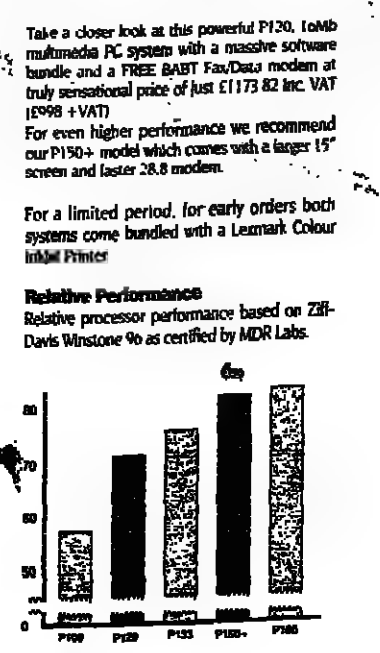
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ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD



THEATRE
George Bernard Shaw's *Mrs Warren's Profession* opens at the Lyric in Hammersmith
FIRST NIGHT: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday



DANCE
Miyako Yoshida stars in *Romeo and Juliet* for the Royal Ballet at Covent Garden
OPENS: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday



JAZZ
Veteran pianist Ahmad Jamal brings his captivating style to the Queen Elizabeth Hall
GIG: Wednesday
PREVIEW: Today



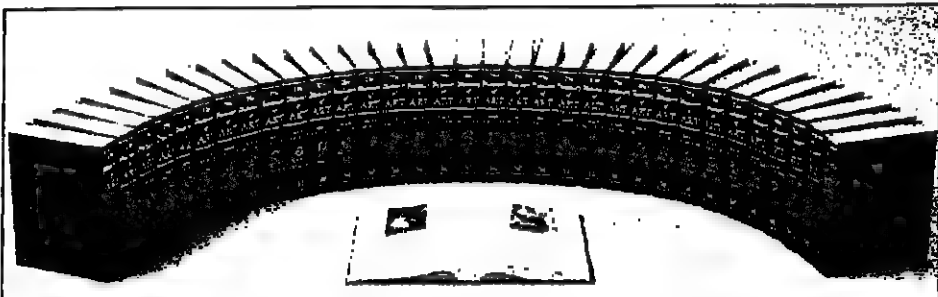
MUSICAL
Classic Fifties and Sixties hits revived, as *Smokey Joe's Cafe* comes to the Prince of Wales
OPENS: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday

Richard Cork, one of the contributors, leafs through the 34 volumes of the monumental *Dictionary of Art*

Marvels of creation on the broadest canvas ever

Anyone with £5,750 to spare, along with a deep and sturdy bookcase, can now acquire by far the most comprehensive reference work on art ever published. Its straightforward title, *The Dictionary of Art*, gives little idea of the epic scope encompassed by the 34 volumes. They contain a total of 26 million words, written by more than 6,700 scholars from 120 countries. Their entries, including biographies of 3,700 architects, 9,000 painters and 2,500 sculptors, are accompanied by 15,000 illustrations. It is a remarkably ambitious attempt to sum up current knowledge about everything from prehistoric cave painting to multimedia installations of lesbian erotica.

The statistics are mind-boggling, and the complete set



of books certainly looked awesome when ranged for my inspection in a crescent of dark green and gold at Macmillan's London headquarters. But do the entries themselves, and the subjects they tackle, really live up to the claim of the editor, Jane Shoaf Turner, that *The Dictionary of Art* not only presents the most up-to-date scholarship and research, but also accurately reflects recent

changes that have dramatically reshaped the political map of the world? At this point, as the author of 12 entries, I should declare an interest. But my contribution seems puny when set in the context of the whole series, and I played no part in the deliberations of the editorial advisory board.

My principal fear was that the dictionary, 15 years in the

making, would be incurably Western in its overall perspective. To Turner's great credit, though, she has ensured that it is international in the fullest sense. The very first volume makes its breadth impressively clear by devoting more than 200 pages to a magisterial entry on Africa. It will satisfy the appetite aroused by the Royal Academy's recent successful

survey of the same subject, and gets away from the reprehensible notion that African art is only interesting because of its powerful influence on early Western modernists such as Picasso.

One of the dictionary's most heartening qualities lies in its readiness to discuss little-known artists. Lawrence Atkinson, a remarkable pioneer of abstract painting and sculpture in Britain, will be unfamiliar to most readers. But I was invited to contribute an entry on his work, and the rest of the dictionary is replete with similar surprises. Amused by the title on the spine of Volume 19, *Leather to Macho*, I looked inside and discovered that Victorio Macho (1887-1966) was a Spanish sculptor who enjoyed considerable esteem in his own country.

Such inclusions give the dictionary a constantly refreshing air, and even the entries on major artists manage to escape predictability. Take the article on the Van Eycks, whose responsibility for the great 15th-century altarpiece in Ghent has been a scholarly battleground for centuries. Many historians have claimed that it was, essentially, a collaborative achievement. Here, however, it is argued with considerable authority that Hubert Van Eyck was its principal creator, and that his far more renowned younger brother Jan simply finished some of the panels after Hubert's death.

Any art publication with claims to vitality is likely to reflect and contribute to current debates about the writing of history. Issues relating to gender and sexuality are vigorously debated in many university courses, and the presence on the dictionary's editorial panel of the leading feminist writer Whitney Chad-

wick has ensured that the topic of *Women and Art History* receives a substantial airing. So does an entry called *Gay and Lesbian Art*, illustrated by images ranging from Michelangelo's sensual drawing of *The Rape of Ganymede* to Hockney's classic Californian idyll *Peter Getting Out of Nick's Pool*. Erotic art in general fares even better. The 15 pages devoted to its exploration embrace primordial images of the ithyphallic god at one end of the timescale and Gilbert & George's *Naked Love* at the other.

But it would be wrong to present the dictionary as a self-consciously trendy publication. The overall presentation is sober, based on solid research rather than fashionable speculation. And it succeeds in performing that most difficult of balancing acts, satisfying specialists while at the same time remaining accessible to the general reader.

The prolonged gestation period presumably accounts for the absence of young artists who have come to prominence in the 1990s. Among the new British sculptors, for instance, I searched in vain for Damien Hirst or Rachel Whiteread, and even the older Antony Gormley has been left out.

But no enterprise of this size should ever be expected to catch up with the latest wave



A RCIMBOLDO: detail from the Italian master's grotesque of Rudolf II as Vertumnus (1591)



C HINA: a 19th-century vase carved with a grasshopper design



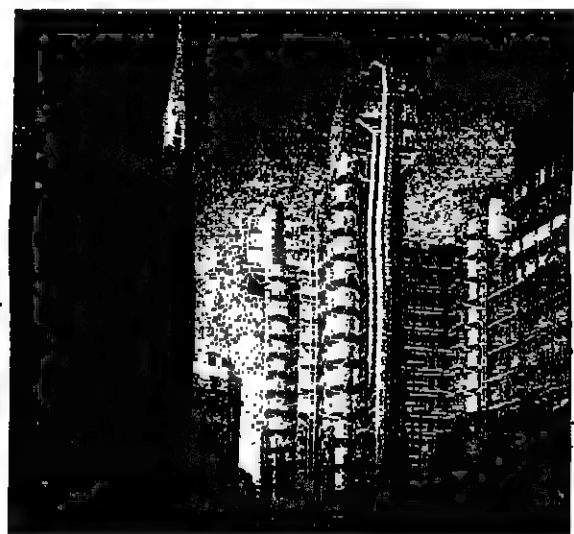
D EGAS: the pastel on paper *Dancers in the Wings* (c. 1880)



I TALLY: detail from the 13th-century stained-glass window at the church of San Francesco, Assisi



M EISSEN: Japanese figures modelled by Kändler (c.1745)



R ICHARD ROGERS: the architect's controversial Lloyd's Building in London's Square Mile



T HAILAND: part of the magnificent temple at Ayutthaya, built during the 14th century. The photographs shown here are among the 15,000 to be found in *The Dictionary of Art*

of artists. Its true strength rests in an ability to span the broadest possible historical sweep with magisterial assurance. Although the texts have been translated from 26 languages, they are lucid, and I often found myself delighted by topics as diverting as the *Artist's House*. Its illustrations commence with Federico Zuccaro's Palazzo Zuccari in Rome, where the garden entrance is transformed into a monster's gaping mouth, and terminate in Santa Monica with the dramatically splintered home that Frank Gehry built seven years ago.

The dictionary teams with similar pleasures, unifying the scholarship and ensuring that each volume is entertaining as well as instructive. In the end, this astonishing publication deserves to be applauded as an act of faith.

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by Ben Jonson
Directed by Simon Phillips
The Oedipus Plays
by Sophocles
Directed by Simon Phillips

Lytton Theatre
Death of a Salesman
by Arthur Miller
Directed by Simon Phillips
The best-made as well as the most courageous and emotionally compelling play to come from America since the war

Cottesloe Theatre
Blinded by the Sun
by Simon Phillips
Directed by Simon Phillips
Violin Time
by Kevin Connolly
War & Peace
by Leo Tolstoy

Platform Performances
Twenty years on the South Bank: Peter Hall & Richard Eyre

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Matthew Parris



Should religion be allowed to broadcast its fundamental beliefs in this insensitive way?

Controversy continues to rage over the contribution made to Radio 4's *Thought for the Day* by a popular young itinerant preacher known simply as Paul. Describing homosexuality as "that which is unseemly", Paul (in an open letter to the Romans) hit out at those men who "burned in their lust toward one another", and told his audience of the loathing and contempt such practices merited.

The broadcast, Romans 1.21, has caused outrage. "It is not as if this self-appointed guardian of public morality attempted a thoughtful case for modesty or restraint," said a member of the Gay Christian Movement, "or argued for the expression of same-sex orientation only within a loving relationship."

"Paul's broadcast was calculated to incite popular hatred towards hundreds of thousands of fellow Christians — churches, even priests, among them. It was typical of the sour and negative tone of this self-styled 'missionary' that he should choose a widely respected programme to spread his message of intolerance."

Other Anglican sources expressed disquiet not so much about Paul's giving voice to opinions for which a theological case can be made, as at his habit of attacking elements within his own Church. This is not the first time that Paul has reserved a special venom for fellow Christians, many of whom he sees as lax and heretical.

Paul is no stranger to controversy. A previous broadcast on *Thought for the Day*, ostensibly to the Corinthians (1. xiv. 34) caused a storm among feminist groups when Paul hit out at women who speak in church. "Let your women keep silent in the churches," he said, "and if they will learn anything, let them ask their husbands at home; for it is a shame for women to speak in the church."

A number of women's organisations organised a petition to John Birt, demanding that all of Paul's speeches — even his less controversial "love is not proud" oration — be banned from the BBC.

Paul's outburst last year against women generally — "silly women, laden with sins, led away with diverse lusts" — is currently the subject of a complaint to the Broadcasting Standards Council. It formed part of a Sunday broadcast, *Letter to Timothy* (II. iii. 6).

Few at the BBC will forget the row that broke out after the hugely popular and generally conciliatory preacher Jesus of Nazareth, stung by criticism that he had accepted a gift of much-prized Ointment of Spikenard when the money would have been better spent on the relief of poverty (John xii. 3) snapped "The poor ye

have always with you, but me ye have not always."

As Christian Aid pointed out, Mr Nazareth appeared to have made an error of logic, since it is only as a category that the poor may be said to be always with us, while any individual poor person is likely to have a below-average lifespan. A representative of the charity Shelter quipped bitterly: "The preachers ye have always with you, but Albert Jones, who lives in a cardboard box on the Strand, ye have not always." After representations from Barnardo's, Age Concern, the Child Poverty Action Group and the Christian Socialist Movement, the BBC issued an apology for Mr Nazareth's unfeeling remark.

It was not the first climbdown. The most memorable came after a certain Mr Moses, speaking on *Thought for the Day* and claiming to be a spokesman for God, declared: "Command the children of Israel that they put out of the camp every leper." After a barrage of complaints from virtually all the disabled and medical charities in Britain, the BBC was forced to disassociate itself from Mr Moses's remarks. The retraction came as an embarrassment, however, as Mr Moses's "Ten Commandments" — published (Moses claimed) by the same divine command — had proved a popular and durable text on the BBC's religious programmes.

After the "lepers" gaffe, Radio 4 moved quickly to rescind its contract with Mr Ezekiel, whose outbursts against prostitutes — of "whores" he said (xvi. 38) they should be "stoned with stones and thrust through with swords" — jammed Broadcasting House switchboards. Thousands complained about tastelessness in light of the "Yorkshire Ripper" case, and the English Collective of Prostitutes organised a demonstration.

STOP PRESS. According to a leaked internal memo, John Birt has acted quickly to forestall another major row over *Thought for the Day*. A talk has been shelved in which Mr Moses, repeating his claim to be God's mouthpiece, describes gay men as "an abomination". Programme producers are believed to have advised Mr Birt that mayhem might result if Moses's further thoughts on homosexuality were broadcast. *Lev. xvii. 22*: "The land thereof vomiteth out its inhabitants."

Memo to the BBC's director of religious broadcasting: try, if you wish, to strip away from religion its surface layers of prejudice, decisiveness and illusion, but take care lest you are left with nothing. You might as well peel an onion in pursuit of its kernel.

Carla Powell admitted at the Referendum Party conference that her husband Sir Charles, who used to be Margaret Thatcher's private secretary, sometimes found her overbearing. "He used to say that his greatest wish was to break down in a Tube train in a tunnel for four

hours," she explained, "so neither Margaret nor I could reach him and he would get some peace."

Cheltenham Colleges' recent sacking of the decent Peter Wilkes shows that in these days of A-level league tables, being a public school headmaster is about as safe a job as Premiership soccer manager. You just get to wear a mortar board rather than a sheepskin overcoat.

Wilkes was fired because Cheltenham's results were allegedly not up to scratch. But as soccer fans sometimes protest at the departure of a popular gaffer, so some well-connected Cheltenham parents are mobilising their forces. The Volvo and Barbour set, when peppered

An antiquated Vatican pronouncement lies behind the corporatism and faulty economics of Europe

How Pope Leo XIII hobbled the EU

I wish bishops would not talk about politics, and that politicians would not talk about religion. It is not because I want to deprive either group of their proper freedom of speech, but because they will not do their homework. When politicians talk about religion they usually, though not always, reveal that they have given the subject only superficial thought, and done too little reading. Bishops are even worse on politics. Where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise — or so they seem to think.

I have never yet come across a bishop, of any denomination, who had made any serious study of economic theory, or could conceivably pass an Economics A-level. Perhaps there will be some bishops, possibly even Roman Catholics, reading this article. Let me ask them some questions. Have you ever read Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations*? Have you ever read Maynard Keynes's *General Theory*? Do the phrases "division of labour", "marginal utility", "market clearing", or "liquidity preference" have any meaning for you? These are not modern questions. They do not take us into the cybernetic age of the 1990s. These are the elementary books and concepts that an informed undergraduate might have acquired 50 years ago, when bishops were still boys.

Let me give an example of the difficulties that can arise. The Roman Catholic social doctrine — which has no theological claim to infallibility — has deep roots in the static or slowly changing society of the Middle Ages. At that time, the Church tried to redress some of the brutal inequalities of the feudal system by extending the principles of justice. That was a good thing to do. It led to the concept of the just wage, which now expresses itself in the demand for a minimum wage.

To someone who has read canon law and the philosophy of Thomas Aquinas, it may well seem to be

obvious that a minimum wage will contribute to justice and welfare in society, and prevent employers from exploiting the weakness of their employees' bargaining position. These are powerful arguments of this kind to be made. Yet an economist — any economist — would immediately see that raising the minimum price of labour would reduce its marginal sale, just as raising the price for any commodity will reduce its sale. There must be a trade-off between any effective minimum wage and unemployment; the higher the minimum wage, the higher the unemployment will be. The just wage theory is therefore inherently a high unemployment theory.

One can see this at the extremes. Put the minimum wage at 5p an hour and it will have no effect on pay or unemployment. Put it at £1,000 an hour and unemployment will rise close to 100 per cent — only a few supermodels can earn as much as that. The theologian may ask what constitutes a just wage; the economist will ask how much unemployment a given minimum wage will cause. This is not merely a theoretical debate. In France, Italy and Spain, where the labour market is much more regulated than in Britain, unemployment is much higher. Roman Catholic bishops seldom say that they would accept the higher unemployment that would follow from the just wage.

Roman Catholic social theory is still largely based on *Rerum*

Novarum, an encyclical issued by Pope Leo XIII in May 1891. It may have been a defensible document for its time, the late Steam Age; that is now more than a century ago, a period not only before computers but before the motor industry, the aeroplane, radio or television, or the widespread use of electricity.

Even then the doctrine looked back to traditional Catholic philosophy rather than being informed with any contemporary economic theory. *Rerum Novarum* refers to the grievances of the working class, which were real enough, rejects socialism and upholds private property. So far so good. It goes on to advocate a corporatist solution, founded on the combined action of the Church, the State, employers and the employed. The Church was to be responsible for social doctrines; the State had a duty to intervene in the interests of social justice; employers and employees should form trade associations, trade unions and mixed corporatist bodies. These corporatist doctrines have had great influence in Catholic countries, and on Catholic political parties such as the European Christian

Democrats. They formed the basis of the economic structures of Fascist Italy and Spain. They have also provided the philosophical justification for the underlying economic philosophy of the European Union, which is neither socialist nor free market, but corporatist in character, as Britain was until 1979. Though he did not express himself in these terms, Harold Wilson was a corporatist.

If the Roman Catholic bishops had explored the economic arguments against corporatism, they would have found a formidable case to answer. Corporatism robs two other institutions of their power. It robs the market of the power to allocate resources, and transfers decisions about allocations to bureaucratic regulatory systems; these systems are agreed between interested parties of producers at the expense of the consumer. Even more significantly, corporatism transfers economic power from elected parliaments to those bureaucratic decision-makers. The EU's common agricultural policy is an example of both types of transfer, as will be the proposed single currency.

The bishops have not begun to tackle the arguments against bureaucratic allocations of resources and in favour of the market. Perhaps because ecclesiastical hierarchies are inherently bureaucratic, bishops seem to have an excessive tolerance for other bureaucracies. They do not see the state bureaucrats as non-productive overheads which ought to be reduced to a minimum. They

certainly do not see the market as a highly efficient communications system with access to maximum information about consumer preferences and with an automatic feedback and control through the price mechanism. They fail to see that any bureaucracy is a much less efficient communication system. They do not think in these terms at all. For them, information theory is not a closed book but an unopened one.

In 1891, the Roman Catholic Church was still in the aftermath of the loss of the papal territories and of the First Vatican Council. Socialism, liberalism and even Italian democracy were seen as necessarily hostile to the papacy. Pope Leo XIII was somewhat wiser in his handling of political issues than his predecessor, Pius IX, but he continued the self-damaging prohibition on Italian Catholics taking part in political elections. He was on the defensive. It would be a mistake for Roman Catholics to suppose that this defensive corporatism of the 1890s is relevant to the 1990s. It will certainly not be relevant to the global economy of the next century.

In the 1980s, Britain managed to move away from the corporatist economy it had adopted as a wartime measure. Catholic Europe, under the *Rerum Novarum* doctrine, moved further towards the corporatist system. The result has been rising corruption — look at Italy, Spain, Belgium or France — rising unemployment and declining competitiveness relative to America and Asia. European corporatism in the 1980s and 1990s has been an economic disaster. Let the Catholic Church be still wedded to it, and will not consider the arguments against it. *Rerum Novarum* was not an infallible encyclical but a misinterpretation of the economic situation as it was 100 years ago. More corporatism now will simply mean more corruption, more unemployment and more poverty. That is no one's economic ideal.

Putting Parliament to rights

Peter Riddell says Commons reform must consider MPs' career paths



Parliament is under challenge. Fresh assaults come almost every day, whether allegations of "sleaze" or sweeping denunciations of current politicians by Sir James Goldsmith. But these are symptoms. The real cause of Parliament's malaise lies deeper, in the growing belief of MPs themselves that they are being bypassed. And calls for change are now coming from the Right as well as from the constitutional reform lobby of the Centre-Left.

Over the past month, proposals for Commons reform have been approved by both the Labour and Liberal Democrat conferences, and the latter's radical ideas for slimming the Commons and the executive were echoed in the agenda for a fifth Tory term produced by the Centre for Policy Studies. Moreover, as Lord Cranborne, the Leader of the Lords, argued in his *Politica* lecture at the Tory conference, any reform of the Lords would increase its authority and so inevitably affect the Commons. They are "complementary and interdependent" Houses. As a former MP, Lord Cranborne was too tactful to say so, but he believes that much in the Commons needs changing.

Tony Newton has been a reforming Leader of the Commons over the past 4½ years, though in a cautious, consensus-seeking way which has masked the degree of change. The hours of MPs have changed radically to benefit backbenchers, most Bills are now subject to voluntary time-tableing, and new rules on Members' conduct and outside interests have been introduced. A formal code became necessary because of the growth of commercial lobbying and

the breakdown of informal understandings about acceptable behaviour. British public life is not particularly sleazy by international standards, but MPs have to be seen not to be abusing their positions.

The commonest complaint is that these changes, though welcome, do not address the disparity in power between the executive and the legislature. This is usually linked to complaints about the influence of whips over MPs. Most such analyses — such as *Reinventing Westminster*, a paper produced today by Charter 88 — underestimate the role of parties in providing cohesion and direction. There is no evidence that the reverse is true, given the increase in backbench dissent over the past 25 years. The real challenge to Parliament is

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

not the executive, but the growth of alternative sources of power, such as European institutions and law, judicial review, the proliferation of quangos and regulators and the shifting of political debate to the media. And, contrary to the claims made in Brighton, the support by all three main parties for referendums on major constitutional issues has already undermined the power of politicians, and Parliament.

Ministers are now just as nervous, if not more, about appearing on the *Today* programme as about answering Commons questions. Michael Howard and Peter Lilley are far more constrained by judges, and occasionally the Lords, than by the Commons.

MPs have been poor at monitoring Europe, partly because of Whitehall reluctance to let them have a say. These failings are extensions of the weaknesses of the Commons in scrutinising legislation.

The almost universal answer is to strengthen select committees. Up to a point. The current system of committees monitoring government departments has improved scrutiny. There is scope, as both Mr Newton and Ann Taylor, his Labour Shadow, have suggested, for select committees to examine draft Bills before they are formally published, as part of a more drawn-out legislative process.

At present, select committees choose their own topics. But they could be formally required to report annually on the main agencies, regulators and quangos in their field.

as the Treasury committee does now in its regular questioning of the Governor of the Bank of England. Labour has proposed that committees should ratify senior public appointments and that they could also be given a greater role in monitoring European proposals in the crucial early stages.

My reservation, shared by some Commons clerks, is about whether this is putting too much weight on such committees. Their members are, after all, MPs with many calls on their time from constituency work to party responsibilities. The Charter 88 paper greatly overestimates the pool of available MPs, and risks confusing two distinct roles when it suggests that new large committees be created to combine the work of select committees in monitoring departments and of standing committees in line-by-line examination of Bills.

The main obstacle is that the career structure of the Commons is almost entirely geared to becoming a minister or a shadow. MPs give up everything in their time from constituency work to party responsibilities. The Charter 88 paper greatly overestimates the pool of available MPs, and risks confusing two distinct roles when it suggests that new large committees be created to combine the work of select committees in monitoring departments and of standing committees in line-by-line examination of Bills.

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None of these ideas for strengthening the Commons' role as scrutineer will work unless the ambitions and attitudes of MPs themselves are taken into account. Good intentions alone will not prevent Parliament being increasingly sidelined.

Stress signs

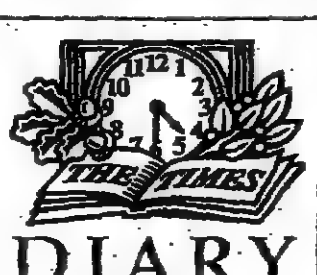
SUCCESS as an author has taken its toll on Norma Major. She is suffering from repetitive strain injury, a "tennis elbow" condition of the wrist marked by inflammation of the tendons, because she has signed so many copies of *Chequers*.

Norma's book has reached number two on some bestseller lists, and has pipped *The Nigel Lawson Diar Book* in the Times hardback list. Sales are said to have reached 30,000 copies, netting £100,000 for the Prime Minister's wife, who has been approached to write another book, possibly about Downing Street. She is astonished but delighted by its success.

After 25 book-signings in different stores, however, writing has become a problem. To ease the strain, she leans her wrist on another hardback — the autobiography of the Arsenal footballer Ian Wright, as it happens, which she takes with her on tour as a prop. "Not that she's an Arsenal fan," explains a bookworm. "It's that it was the first hardback that came to hand."

Baroness Thatcher also used a book to lean on, but her writing hand remained in perfect condition throughout her tours. Her secret weapon was aromatic oils, applied morning and evening to the wrists.

Carla Powell admitted at the Referendum Party conference that her husband Sir Charles, who used to be Margaret Thatcher's private secretary, sometimes found her overbearing. "He used to say that his greatest wish was to break down in a Tube train in a tunnel for four



hours," she explained, "so neither Margaret nor I could reach him and he would get some peace."

Bad job

CHELTHAM COLLEGE'S recent sacking of the decent Peter Wilkes shows that in these days of A-level league tables, being a public school headmaster is about as safe a job as Premiership soccer manager. You just get to wear a mortar board rather than a sheepskin overcoat.

Wilkes was fired because Cheltenham's results were allegedly not up to scratch. But as soccer fans sometimes protest at the departure of a popular gaffer, so some well-connected Cheltenham parents are mobilising their forces. The Volvo and Barbour set, when peppered

up, can be terrifying, and I wouldn't count on the survival of the college council's president.

He will have to contend with the doughty Alice Wilkes, the headmaster's wife, a woman with bullet-proof morale and Africa's dust on her boots. At a planned farewell party she will sport a Johnny Rebel nose-stud and a badge marked "NOT the headmaster's wife".

Pieties

TALK in the bars at the Referendum Party conference in Brighton turned inevitably to Jennima Khan, Sir James Goldsmith's arresting daughter, and the imminent birth of her child.

Would the baby, if a girl, be called Referenda? Perhaps not. But the moniker Taqi is being seriously considered for a boy. No reference to the Greek columnist and raving socialist who would doubtless love to be so honoured. Taqi means "pious one" in Urdu, and is favoured by Jennima's husband, Imran.

Jeffrey Archer was gavel-man and bidder at separate auctions on Friday night. While conducting an auction for the *Make a Wish* charity, he was leaving bids at Christie's for the cricket bat with which Sir

Jack Hobbs equalled W.G. Grace's record by scoring his 126th century. The charity auction raised £101,000, but Archer didn't get Hobbs's bat, which sold for £11,000 — more than twice his offer.

Wear and tear

YEARS as a recluse seem to have done something odd to the film director Stanley Kubrick. The man behind the films *Dr Strangelove* and *A Clockwork Orange* has instructed his tailor to make him a cassock.

Timothy Everest, the gifted young chap who made the suits for the film *Mission Impossible*, has been retained by Tom Cruise for his next film, *Eyes Wide Shut*, which Kubrick is to direct. He met Kubrick last week at the director's secluded Hertfordshire mansion. It was there that he received the extraordinary commission. "I don't know what he wants it for," said Everest, "but I am more than happy to make it for him."



Jennima: name hunt

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Secret model

MY HEART goes out to Linda Evangelista, leggy supermodel and star of pizza advertisements. She claims to be terrified of the admiring crowds lining her catwalk, and suffers from "panic attacks".

So much so, that when the Anxiety Disorders Association of America got wind of her fears and asked her to address a conference, she refused because a large number of people would be watching her. Worst of all for a woman in her profession, she refuses to go to public aerobics classes in case onlookers are badly. "I can't go because



Linda: feels shy

people stare at me," she tells *Zeit* magazine. "I hear they say things like 'Oh, she's not as pretty as I thought.' To cap her miseries, she says she was an ugly baby. "My teeth were crooked and I was gangly."

Happiness came recently, however, in the form of a lucrative modelling contract with Yardley.



COURT CIRCULAR

CLARENCE HOUSE

October 19: Dame Frances Campbell-Preston has succeeded the Hon Mrs Rhodes as Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

October 20: The Duke of Edinburgh, President, World Wide Fund for Nature - WWF International, this morning left Royal

Air Force Northolt to visit WWF Germany and subsequently to chair the WWF Annual Conference in Berlin.

The Lord Buxton is in attendance.

ST JAMES'S PALACE

October 20: The Prince of Wales, President, this afternoon held a Reception for WaterAid at Balmoral Castle.

Today's royal engagements

The Prince of Wales will attend the Keepers of the Quich dinner at Blair Castle, Blair Atholl, at 7pm.

The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, National Missing Persons Helpline, will attend a reception at the South African High Commission, Trafalgar Square, at 7pm.

The Duke of Kent, Honorary Air Commodore, will fly in an RAF Chinook, RAF Odiham, 5.05pm.

Corporation of the Sons of the Clergy

The Annual General Court of Governors of the Corporation will be held at Lambeth Palace on Thursday, November 14, 1996, at noon, for the election of Governors and for filling vacancies on the Court of Assistants under the Charter of King Charles II. Governors planning to attend should please contact the Registrar for full particulars: Dean Trench Street, London SW1P 3HB, telephone: 0171-739 3696.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Georg Ernst Stahl, chemist, Ansbach, Germany, 1660; George Colman the Younger, actor, London, 1762; Samuel Taylor Coleridge, poet, Ottery St Mary, Devon, 1772; George Combe, phrenologist, Edinburgh, 1788; Alphonse de Lamartine, poet and statesman, Mâcon, France, 1790; Alfred Nobel, inventor of dynamite, founder of prizes bearing his name, Stockholm, 1833; Leonard Rossier, actor and comedian, Liverpool, 1926.

DEATHS: Pietro Aretino, satirist, Venice, 1557; Edmund Waller, poet, Bucks, 1687; Horatio Nelson, Viscount Nelson, was killed in action at the Battle of Trafalgar, 1805; Arthur Schnitzler, dramatist, Vienna, 1931; Sir Maitland Boffe, watercolourist and etcher, Ferry Hinkley, Oxford, 1953; Jack Kerouac, writer, Lowell, Massachusetts, 1969.

At Aberfan, near Merthyr Tydfil, a coalpit slide, killing 144, including children, 1966.

Willy Brandt was elected Chancellor of West Germany, 1969.

Nature notes

CROWDS of woodpeckers are assembling on ploughed fields: from a distant hilltop they look like a purple-blue mist over the dark earth. Some woodpeckers are still molting and their black, white and grey tail-feathers lie conspicuously in the grass.

Redwings and fieldfares, which are thrushes that breed in Iceland and Scandinavia, are beginning to arrive in Britain. They forage mainly on pasture land, or flock into the hedges to eat the hawthorn berries. Large parties of greenfinches are searching the countryside for burdock and persicaria seeds: they will eat them either ripe on the plant or where they have fallen to the ground. They also go into churchyard yew trees to feed on the pink berries.

The colours of the autumn leaves are now at their most intense. On wild cherries, the long, drooping leaves are many shades of scarlet and



The woodpecker

yellow. Maple leaves are pale pink and orange. Beech woods are aflame with mixed colour. Ash trees are still green but are dappled with large bunches of seeds that have now turned purple-brown. Yellow toadflax, with its snapdragon-like flowers, is still quite common on roadside verges.

DM Feather Reports: A Chronicle of Bird Life from the Pages of The Times, by Derwent May, illustrated by Robin Jacques, has just been published by Robson Books at £12.95.



Una McCarthy, a keeper at London Zoo, launching Animal Adoption Week with Chico the llama yesterday

HMS President

The Lord Mayor, accompanied by Sheriffs, was a speaker at the annual Trafalgar dinner held on Friday night aboard HMS President to mark the 191st anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar. Lieutenant-Commander A.J. McNeill, RNR, Mess President, was in the chair. Vice-Admiral Sir Toby Frere, Chief of Fleet Support, proposed the toast to The Immortal Memory. Commander M.D. MacFarlane, RNR, Commanding Officer, received the guests who included:

The Honorary President of the HMS President Red Officers' Association, the Prime Minister of the Fishmongers' and Shipwrights' Companies, the Master of the Coopers' Company, the Master

of the Company of Master Mariners and members of the Wardroom Mess.

HMS Cambridge

To mark the 101st anniversary of the death of Admiral Lord Nelson and to initiate their association with the Gunmakers' Company the Officers of HMS Cambridge dined on Friday night at HMS Cambridge. Lieutenant-Commander Richard Harrison presided and Mr Stanley Carroll, Master of the Gunmakers' Company, proposed the toast to The Immortal Memory. Simultaneously their ladies dined at the Anchorage, West Hoe, Plymouth.

Service dinners

to mark the life of Emma Hamilton. Mrs Andrew Welch presided and Mrs Stanley Carroll, Mistress Gunmaker, proposed the toast to Emma Hamilton.

Vulcan Naval Reactor Test Establishment Admiral Sir Michael Boyce, Second Sea Lord and Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command, was the guest of honour and proposed the toast to The Immortal Memory at a Trafalgar night dinner held on Friday night at the Portland Hotel, Thurso. Commander P. Caris, RN, presided.

The Green Howards Brigadier Richard Dannatt presided at the annual Officers' dinner of The Green Howards (Alexandra, Princess of Wales Own Yorkshire Regiment) held on Friday night in Caterick.

Royal Pioneer Officers Major-General Geoffrey Field presided at the Pioneer Officers' fiftieth past and present dinner held on Friday night at St David's Barracks, Bicester. Major-General Kevin O'Donoghue, Chief of Staff, Headquarters QMG, was the guest of honour.

RAF Strike Command Air Marshal G.A. Robertson received the guests at a ladies' guest night dinner held on Friday night at RAF High Wycombe. Group Captain A. Beedie presided.

Dinners

Chambers of Jocelyn Gibbs and Carl Teper

The 10th annual dinner of the Chambers of Jocelyn Gibbs and Carl Teper was held last Friday evening at the Reform Club. The principal guest and speaker was Judge Timothy Lawrence, President of the Industrial Tribunals. The Rev Malcolm Weisman welcomed the guests. Mr Carl Teper proposed the toast to the guests and Father John King said Grace. Mr Nick Wayne presided over the evening. The guests included: Lord and Lady Burghurst, Mr Ernie Money, CBE, Judge Ann Goddard, QC, His Honour Marcus Anwyl Davies, QC, and Mrs Anwyl Davies, Judge and Mrs Copley, Judge and Mrs Mathewman, Judge and Mrs Sanders, Judge Wilkins, His Honour Evelyn F. Monier-Williams, Mr Peter Feinberg, QC, and Mrs Feinberg, Mr Stephen Leslie, QC, and Mrs Leslie, Mr Richard Stone, QC, and Mrs Stone, Mr Stephen Mason and Mrs T. Jane Mason, Dr Malcolm Comyns and

Mrs Jacqueline Comyns, Mrs Susan Turquet, JP, Mrs Mary Phillips, Mrs Brenda Farthing, Mr Joseph Teper, Mr Adrian Keane, Mr Christopher Wright, Mr and Mrs Derek Martin, Dr Susan Teper, Mrs Sonia Willis, Mr Andrew Harman, Miss Penny Muir and Miss Holly Palmer of Lawrence Graham.

Defence Postal and Courier Services Major-General M. White, Director-General, Logistic Support (Army), and Mr Richard Dykes, Managing Director of Royal Mail, were the principal guests at the annual reunion dinner of the Defence Postal and Courier Services Officers' Association held last night at Simpsons-in-the-Strand. Brigadier T. McG. Brown presided.

Old Oakham Club Mr Anthony Little, Headmaster of Oakham School, was the guest of honour at the annual dinner of the Old Oakham Club held on Saturday at the school. Mr Peter Hewlett, president, was in the chair.

Amphitheatre unearthed

By NORMAN HAMMOND
ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE northernmost amphitheatre in the Roman Empire has been found by archaeologists working in southern Scotland. Set on the outskirts of Trimonium, one of the most important forts of the northern frontier beyond Hadrian's Wall, the amphitheatre dates to the earlier part of the Roman occupation.

The site consists today of a hollow on the northeastern corner of the Roman fort, at Newstead in the Borders. A survey by Dr Simon Clarke of Bradford University, followed up by four recently dug trenches, suggests a simple amphitheatre dating from the 1st or 2nd century. The bank where spectators would have sat was built up from river

cobbles, while the arena for military exercises, gladiatorial combats and animal shows was some 40 metres across.

"This is the first amphitheatre to be discovered in Scotland, and the most northerly in the Roman Empire," Donald Gordon of the Trimonium Trust said. Built by the Twentieth Legion, and housing at one point a cavalry wing, from the Vocontii tribe in southern France, Trimonium has yielded horses' tack, a cavalryman's parade helmet, leather shoes, a spoked wheel and part of a folding camp stool. The fort faced on to Dere Street, the most important Roman road running north from Hadrian's Wall. The road from Newstead to Leaderfoot over the part of the amphitheatre bank but a substantial amount has survived.

Marriages

Mr J.A.M. Ashworth and Miss F.J. Harris

The marriage took place on Saturday, October 19, at Christ Church, Chelsea, of Mr Jon Ashworth to Miss Fiona Harris. The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Joanna Harris and Miss Emma Cartwright. Mr Hugh Fraser was best man.

A reception was held at 30 Pavilion Road and the honeymoon is being spent in the Seychelles.

The Hon Ralph Assleson and Miss O.S. Warrington

The marriage took place on Saturday at St Mary's, Wimblesbury, North Yorkshire, of the Hon Ralph Assleson, elder son of Lord and Lady Clitheroe, of Downham Hall, Lancashire, to Miss Olivia Warrington, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Warrington, of Low Burton Hall, Masham. The Rev Brian Abel and Don Mathew Burns officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Flora Warrington, Eleanor Warrington and Miss Sarah Macmillan. Major Edward Smyth-Osborne was best man. A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr J.J. Eastace and Miss P.M. Warre

The marriage took place on Saturday at St Mary's, Wimblesbury, of Mr James Eastace, son of Dr and Mrs John Eastace, of Rotherwick, Hampshire, to Miss Philippa Warre, daughter of Mr and Mrs William Warre, of Wimblesbury. Canon Gerald Parrott officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Jessica Muller, Anna Moore and Ellie Eastace. Mr Robert Eastace was best man. A reception was held at Hampden Court and the honeymoon will be spent in Morocco.

Captain P.R. Stopford and Mrs S.G. Maddocks

The marriage took place on October 19, 1996, in Cambridge, between Captain Robert Stopford and Mrs Susan Maddocks, followed by a service of blessing at Corpus Christi College Chapel.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr S.S.G. Barnett and Miss K.G. Honey

The engagement is announced between Stephen, youngest son of Mr and Mrs James Barnett, of Albourne, Portugal, and Kathryn, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Morris Honey, of Nelson, New Zealand.

Mr N. Courmeyer and Miss L. Naudi

The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Dr and Mrs Norman Courmeyer, of Amherst, Massachusetts, and Lara, daughter of Mr Robert Naudi and Mrs M.C. Montaleite, of London.

Lieutenant Commander C.J.B. Jewitt, RN, and Miss P.L.M. Watkinson

The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Commander and Mrs D.J.B. Jewitt, of Crediton, Devon, and Philippa (Cory), second daughter of Mr and Mrs D.M. Watkinson, of Swardston, Norfolk.

Mr D.M.P. Lee and Miss D.S. Dawson

The engagement is announced between David, younger son of Mr and Mrs Michael Lee, of Great Coxwold, Oxfordshire, and Dawn, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Dawson, of East Ruston, Norfolk.

Memorial services

The Rev Dr Eric Heaton A Memorial Service for the Rev Dr Eric Heaton, Dean of Christ Church, Oxford, and Honorary Chaplain (1991-96), will be held in Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, on Saturday, November 9, 1996, at 3pm.

Mr Robert Tewdwr Moss A Memorial service for Mr Robert Louis Tewdwr Moss, writer, was held on Saturday at St Mary's, Paddington Green. The Rev Gary Bradley officiated and Father Mark Gibson, OSB, read the Gospel. Dr Christopher Wain read the lesson and Mr Robin Baird-Smith gave an address.

Mr Robert Tewdwr Moss A Memorial service for Mr Robert Louis Tewdwr Moss, writer, was held on Saturday at St Mary's, Paddington Green. The Rev Gary Bradley officiated and Father Mark Gibson, OSB, read the Gospel. Dr Christopher Wain read the lesson and Mr Robin Baird-Smith gave an address.

Scholarships

Hereford Cathedral Junior School

Hereford Cathedral Junior School will be holding Voice Trials for Choral Scholarships on Monday, November 4. Choral scholarships are two thirds of school fees and the school is pleased to announce that there is one new scholarship available covering all fees.

Company of Makers of Playing Cards

The following have been elected officers of the Company of Makers of Playing Cards for the ensuing year:

Master, Mr P.H. Goodall; Senior Warden, Mr P.D. Crabbe; Junior Warden, Mr A.H. Wilcox.

BMDs: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

"Report", said Peter, "and be inspired, every one of you, in the name of Jesus the Messiah; then you will be forgiven and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit: Acts of the Apostles 2: 38"

BIRTHS

BROADBENT - On October 16th, in Edinburgh, to Emma (née Rogers-Collman) and Marcus, a daughter, born weighing 8lb 9oz each.

CURRIAN - To Angela and Mark, twin daughters born on the 16th October 1996, at 1.30pm, followed by Jordan Elizabeth and Emma Jane weighing 8lb 9oz each.

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DEATHS

BIRD - Catherine Jean, nee Pauline, died on Friday, October 18, 1996, at her home, 15, St. John's Road, London, aged 85.

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OBITUARIES

JOHN HILLABY

John Hillaby, writer, naturalist and traveller, died on October 19 aged 79. He was born on July 24, 1917.

THE novelist and essayist J. B. Priestley once attempted to explain the delight of long-distance walking. It lay in "skull cinema", he said, in the meditative chain of thought driven through the mind by the rhythmic action of placing one foot before the other. John Hillaby, one of the best-known pedestrians of recent years, followed closely in Priestley's footsteps. Deeply schooled in botany, geology, literature and social history, he produced a string of idiosyncratic travel books in which a prodigious knowledge was painlessly imparted along the way and eclectic allusion often upstaged the narration of the journey itself.

Above all else, it was natural history which enthralled Hillaby. "The naturalist," he said, "is able to put a great deal between what he sees and that portion of his mind where boredom lurks." Hillaby himself got into the practice of intoning things aloud as he walked. "There are times," he once explained, "when to keep my mind occupied I have run over the scientific names of everything I saw. For example, I would see some grass, some very ordinary English grass, and I would say: *ah graminaceae*. Now then, genus? *Erm, Holcus. Holcus mollis*. Soft grass. And then *bazza*, a dragonfly. *Ordera odonata*, which means literally that it is tooth-winged." Travelling, Hillaby said, was not only a matter of aesthetics but of ethics.

In his lifetime Hillaby walked an estimated equivalent of three times the circumference of the globe. His fluent interchanges between perception and experience breathed life into the landscapes he charted in books which ranged from his 1964 *Journey to the Jade Sea*, a wander in the wilderness of the African desert, to *Journey to the Gods* published in 1991 in which he described his travels from Athens to Mount Olympus via the Pindus Range.

The classic which secured his reputation was his 1968 *Journey Through Britain*, the result of a "considered impulse" to walk from Land's End to John o' Groats with the barest minimum of material roads between. Its slow movement through a continually varying landscape — whether geographical, topographical, historical or social — became a classic which was to inspire thousands of other romantics to follow in his path. Escaping the prepackaged no man's land of contemporary travel, he discovered a freshness of experience which few in the modern world have captured.

The son of a Yorkshire printer, John Hillaby was not brought up in the wild countryside he was later to explore, but in the urban environment of Leeds. But from an early age an appetite for natural history was awakened in him. His grandfather, he said, would cuff him round the ear if he did not learn



John Hillaby and his wife, Kathleen

plant names both in Latin and in English, and a master at his school — Woodhouse Grove — fostered this interest further. "No homework tonight," this master would say. "Whatever it is you are meant to be doing, don't do it. I want you to bring me an insect." Hillaby, in ardent quest of six-legged invertebrates, made his first ventures up onto the moors. Walking and natural history were ever afterwards to become linked in his mind.

Leaving school he found work as a journalist on local papers, but with the outbreak of the Second World War was called up to serve with the Royal Artillery. He returned to journalism when the war was over, becoming zoological correspondent for the *Manchester Guardian*. In 1951 he was appointed European science writer for the *New York Times* and in 1953 was given the post of biological consultant for the *New Scientist*.

It was not until he was in his early forties that Hillaby began to walk, preparing for a trek across the burning African deserts by learning Kiswahili and basking his skin on the deck of a Nile stern-wheeler. Everything else about travelling he had to learn once the journey was under way. His book describing his adventures, *Journey to*

the *Jade Sea* (1964), is a tale of wind, dust and stars, of recalcitrant camels and distant tribesmen, and a lone journalist who walked off into the wilderness for the sheer joy of it.

He returned to more familiar dimes in his next and most famous book, *Journey Across Britain* (1968), an account of the two-month walk from Land's End to John o' Groats. It seemed a journey through time as much as through place. Hillaby trod the length of British history, although his anecdotes of the past slipped as easily from his tongue as the gossip that he gleaned from wayside pubs.

Four years later Hillaby published *Journey Through Europe* (1972), which took the reader on a trek from the Hook of Holland to the beach at Nice. It is a journey, one reviewer wrote, which "grows green particulars, faint markings, massive reflexes, wry, keen, bounding lines; and sometimes the mingled forms of his thousand miles become an index to the composite face of Europe."

In 1972 Hillaby, who had made a wartime first marriage in 1940, suffered the loss of his second wife, Thelma, a child analyst who died of cancer. His *Journey Through Love* (1976) was less a coherent travel book

than a web of digressions entangling a grief-stricken man on a quest for solace. But in *Journey to the Gods*, his last major travel book — an account of a journey made from Athens to Mount Olympus in the company of his third wife Kathleen — he regained his clarity of vision and linguistic agility and the book is alive with his characteristic wisdom and wit, with sharp anecdote and a laconic lyricism.

A respected figure in literary circles, Hillaby, tall, gaunt, and with grey beard and a crest of silvery hair, stood out among the literati, it was said, like a heron among partridges. A regular broadcaster and reviewer, he was an inspiration to a whole new generation of walkers, including Fiona Campbell, who consulted him before undertaking her epic trek around the world. Until recently he divided his time between Hampstead and Rosedale in Yorkshire, until, increasingly incapacitated by osteoarthritis of the spine, he settled finally in York four years ago.

John Hillaby married three times. His first marriage was dissolved. His second wife, Thelma, predeceased him in 1972. He is survived by his third wife, Kathleen, whom he married in 1981, and by two daughters from his first marriage.

SYBIL ROSENFELD

Sybil Rosenfeld, theatre historian, died on October 2 aged 93. She was born on January 20, 1903.



SYBIL ROSENFELD was a cultured, talented and characterful woman who, possessed of independent means, dedicated her life to public service, unobtrusively undertaken, and to the encouragement and pursuit of research into the history of the English theatre.

Born of wealthy Jewish parents, Sybil Marion Rosenfeld graduated from King's College London at the age of 19 with a first-class degree in English. Her scholarly career owed much to the influence of Allardyce Nicoll, the drama historian, with whom she worked for her MA on the Restoration dramatist, George Etherege.

On completing her degree, she was lucky that her financial independence enabled her to pursue the studies which interested her rather than those which would earn her most in royalties. Her *Strolling Players and Drama in the Provinces, 1600-1765*, was published in 1939 and awarded the British Academy's Rose Mary Crawshay Prize.

She went on to publish further meticulously researched and elegantly presented studies of other neglected aspects of theatrical history, including *Theatre of London Fairs in the 18th Century* (1966), *A Short History of Scene Design in Great Britain* (1972), a study of aristocratic Georgian amateur theatricals entitled *Temples of Thespis* (1978), *Georgian Scene Painters and Scene Painting* (1982), and a history (1984) of the Georgian theatre at Richmond, Yorkshire.

She was able to repay her debt to Allardyce Nicoll by editing for the press his posthumous book, *The Garrick Stage* (1980). More recently she contributed numerous entries to the *New Grove Dictionary of Opera*.

No less important than Sybil Rosenfeld's personal research was the warm encouragement she gave to others, especially through her work as a founding editor of the journal *Theatre Notebook* which, inaugurated in 1945, led to the establishment in 1948 of the Society for Theatre Research for which she worked indefatigably in many capacities until she died. This work led directly to the foundation of the Theatre Museum and of the International Federation for Theatre Research.

Alongside her scholarly work Sybil Rosenfeld devoted great energy to Jewish educa-

tional and charitable enterprises, serving for a quarter of a century as honorary manager of the Jews' Free School and of the Bayswater Jewish School as well as running a club for Jewish girls in Paddington during the war.

Fortright and resilient, but sensitive and gently humorous, Sybil Rosenfeld inspired admiration among all who encountered her. Her passion for the theatre was not confined to the past: she was a zealous playgoer.

Only a few weeks ago she attended the International Shakespeare Conference in Stratford-upon-Avon, and on the day she died she visited an exhibition and was looking forward to taking a friend to see *Uncle Vanya* the next day. She gave to the theatre no less than she gained from it.

Sybil Rosenfeld never married.

RICHARD JOHNSON

Richard Johnson, OBE, neurosurgeon, died on September 21 aged 84. He was born on June 30, 1912.



A PIONEERING neurosurgeon, Richard Johnson worked closely with two of the three men who would later head the first departments of neurosurgery in Great Britain: Sir Geoffrey Jefferson in Manchester, Hugh Cairns at Oxford and Norman Dott in Edinburgh, each of whom had trained with Harvey Cushing in Boston, Massachusetts. For his part, Johnson was a man of great intelligence and modesty, a technically excellent surgeon and a brilliant diagnostician. He was also — as those who consulted him came to discover — a patient listener who radiated good humour and natural charm.

Richard Turner Johnson was educated at the King's School, Macclesfield, Cheshire. He read Natural Sciences at Downing College, Cambridge, and here he also developed his mountaineering skills, climbing most of the peaks of Europe. His clinical training was at St Bartholomew's Hospital in London.

After qualifying in 1938, and gaining his FRCS, he became a resident at the Manchester Royal Infirmary, coming under the influence of Sir Geoffrey Jefferson. He subsequently passed rapidly through the surgical unit at Bart's, becoming chief assistant to Sir James Paterson Ross. Neurosurgery was a fledgling service at the time, with brain operations being done on Sundays when the theatres were not otherwise in use. Once war broke out, his training continued in the RAMC, taking him to St Hugh's College, Oxford, where Hugh Cairns organised specialist head injury teams to operate in the war zones.

In 1942, at the age of 30, Johnson was sent out to Burma to run the 3rd Neurosurgical Field Hospital. This was part of the 14th Army under Field Marshal Viscount Slim

in South-East Asia Command. His unit was visited by Joyce Grenfell in 1945. In her war diaries, *The Time of My Life*, she wrote: "Wednesday January 31, 1945. Comilla. Two shows. First at the head and eye extension of number 92 IGH which is housed in the old Courts of Justice and presided over by a brilliant young man called Major Johnson. Both he and the Senior Sister who run it are very enthusiastic and the whole place is keyed to their mood. We gave the show at 5 o'clock on the balcony. Mr Johnson took us through the head wards afterwards to see the patients who were too ill to see the show."

Johnson returned to England in 1946 and was appointed OBE (MB) for his war service. In the same year he was appointed Consultant Neurosurgeon at the Manchester Royal Infirmary and in 1949 was appointed Hunterian Professor at the Royal College of Surgeons.

In 1950 the Manchester Royal Infirmary opened the first purpose-built department of neurosurgery in Britain, and on the retirement of Sir

Geoffrey Jefferson, Richard Johnson became its director. Apart from his operating skills, Johnson was also known for his enthusiastic approach to teaching. He instigated rotational training schemes and set up a rotation between Oxford and Manchester, and developed European training courses in neurosurgery. He also took an active role in the development of the first CT scanner. In 1973 he was appointed to the Central Manchester Hospitals Board of Governors, was a founder member of the European Association of Neurological Surgeons and its president between 1971 and 1975, and later, vice-president of the World Federation of Neurological Surgeons.

Johnson's commitment to neurosurgery continued after retirement and his opinion was valued in medico-legal circles. He was also a keen gardener, a meticulous furniture restorer and a devoted family man.

In 1942 he married Mairiad Farragher who died in 1989. They had two sons, both trained at Bart's, and a daughter.

HAROLD WATKINS SHAW

Harold Watkins Shaw, OBE, musicologist, died on October 8 aged 85. He was born on April 3, 1911.

THERE was an appropriateness which Harold Shaw would have appreciated in that the day after his death the choir of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, performed Handel's *Messiah*. Their conductor, Ian Curror, his friend and colleague at the Royal College of Music, dedicated the performance to Shaw, from whose edition of the oratorio the choir was singing.

Watkins Shaw (the name under which he wrote) was most widely known for his work on Handel and, above all, for his performing score of *Messiah* (1939), now the most eminent of his extensive writings and editions of church music, which occupied him for almost 50 years and which was published largely under the auspices of the Church Music Society: he was the society's first honorary general editor for 14 years from 1956, and its chairman from 1979 to 1987.

His interests and publications stretched from Tallis to Samuel Sebastian Wesley: his major concerns were Blow, Purcell and Handel (his edition of *Theodora* is used for

Glyndebourne's current production). Recently he reconstructed and reinstated the *Proces* (versides) and Responses of Byrd, Morley, Smith and Tomkins, which are still in general use where madrigals and evensong are sung. A consummate academic, his scholarship in these centuries transformed performance and practice in the postwar decades and laid the textual foundations on which the Early Music movement was to be built.

Harold Watkins Shaw was the only child of schoolteachers in Bradford. He attended Grange Road School, where his father taught geography and he discovered his love of music from singing in chapel choirs. In 1929 he won a scholarship to Wadham College, Oxford, to read history. He retained a great affection for Oxford and was much pleased with his DLit, awarded in 1967. After graduating in 1932 he spent a year at the Royal College of Music, where he was encouraged to link historical and musical studies. After teaching in London he was, for three years, musical adviser to Hertfordshire County Council before becoming, in 1949, a lecturer at Worcester College of Education, a position he held until 1970.



It was during these years, in posts which were less than satisfying to his scholarly temperament, that he began his independent work as a musical writer and editor. In a world without fellowships or grants of bursaries, he always took a certain pride in having "privately pursued" his musical interests. He had already published widely-used works on school music teaching.

When, after 30 years in post, E. H. Fellowes retired in 1948 as honorary librarian of Sir Frederick Ouseley's choral foundation of St Michael's College, Tenbury, Shaw was his natural successor and he occupied the post with distinction until the college closed in

1985. At that time he successfully negotiated through Ouseley's two conflicting wills to ensure that all the manuscripts in this important collection reached the Bodleian — including Handel's conducting score of *Messiah*, used by the composer for the first performance in Dublin in 1742.

Shaw was also a fellow and governor of the college, and at the college's dissolution he was the most powerful single influence in negotiating with the Charity Commissioners to ensure that the not inconsiderable endowment, now known as the Ouseley Trust, should be made available, as Ouseley would have wished, "for the purpose of promoting and maintaining to a high standard the choral services of the Church of England". In 1988 he published *Sir Frederick Ouseley and St Michael's Tenbury: A Chapter in the History of English Church Music and Ecclesiology*. During much of this period he had been closely associated with the Three Choirs Festival, often writing its programmes, and publishing its history in 1954.

Shaw was finally relieved from workday teaching when, in 1970, he was appointed Keeper of the Parry Room Library at the Royal College of

Music. In his ten years as keeper he transformed what had been long recognised (and long neglected) as one of the foremost centres for musical research.

In retirement he finally published, in 1991, his monumental *The Succession of Organists of the Chapel Royal and the Cathedral of Ely, 1535-1835*, which had occupied him intermittently for many years. He was appointed OBE for his services to music in 1990.

Shaw was a perfectionist and a powerful advocate of the causes in which he believed. He enjoyed forms and ceremonies: he designed rituals — in Latin — for the admission of new fellows at St Michael's College and kept a strict watch over precedence in their processions. He hated humbug and was impatient with those he thought were wasting their talents. But he was generous of his time and knowledge to those who wanted to learn, and he had a sharp sense of the ridiculous among friends: he was an excellent company, full of recondite knowledge and anecdotes.

In retirement he continued to live on the other side of Broadhead Common from Elgar's birthplace, where he is survived by his second wife, Eleanor.

Church appointments

The Rev Barbara Baisley, Diocesan Vocations Adviser and Associate Minister, Berkswell (Coventry): to be also an Hon Canon of Coventry Cathedral.
The Rev Paul Barnes, Rector, Cusop w Clifford, Hardwicke, Bredwardine, Brobury and Moccas: to be also Rural Dean of Abbeydore (Hereford).
The Rev Dr Colin Bevers, Priest-in-charge, St Michael, Ledbury. St John the Baptist, Eastnor, St Michael and All An 'gls, Little Marcle, St Bartholomew, Much Marcle, and All Saints, Yatton: to be also Rural Dean of Ledbury (Hereford).
The Rev Roy Bennett, Chaplain's Assistant at the Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham University NHS Trust: to be

Anglican Chaplain (fulltime), Bassettlaw Hospital and Community Services NHS Trust (Southwell).
The Rev Graham Booth, Assistant Curate, St Mark's, Woodthorpe: to be Priest-in-charge, Trowell (Southwell).
The Rev Neville Boundy, Vicar, St Saviour w St Mary, Cotham (Bristol): to be also an Hon Canon of Bristol Cathedral.
The Rev John Britton, Vicar, All Saints, Harworth w Birchores: to be also Rural Dean of Bawtry (Southwell).
The Rev Dhoe Craig-Wild, Curate, St John's, Chapelthorpe (Sheffield): to be Priest-in-charge, St Andrew's, Brumcliffe (Wakefield).
The Rev Duncan Dornor, Rector, Tenbury Team Minis-

try: to be also Rural Dean of Ludlow (Hereford).
The Rev Richard East, Vicar, Garsdon, Lea and Cleverton and Charlton: to be also Rural Dean of Malmesbury (Bristol).
The Rev Frances Edwards, Curate, NSM, St Chad, Skerton, Lancaster (Blackburn): to be also Regional Coordinator, Northwest, Church Action on Disability.
The Rev Christopher Entwistle, Vicar, St Paul, North Shore, Blackpool, and Rural Dean of Blackpool: to be Priest-in-charge, St Helen, Overton, and Chaplain to Heysham Power Station (Blackburn).
The Rev Christopher Eyden, Curate, St Peter, Ealing (London): to be Team Vicar, St

Mark and St John, Wimbledon (Southwark).
The Rev Stephen Harrop, Industrial Chaplain and Chaplain, Kidderminster College (Worcester): to be Deputy Chaplain, HM Prison, Brixton (Southwark).
The Rev Janet Heath, Assistant Curate, St Simon and St Jude, Ralmworth: to be Associate Priest, St Edmund King and Martyr, Mansfield Woodhouse (Southwell).
The Rev Charmaine Host, Associate Minister, Whitnash, Leamington Spa: to be Vicar, Kineton and Combroke w Compton Verney (Coventry).
The Rev Christopher Jage-Bowler, formerly Curate, St Michael and St Paul's, Bristol: to be Assistant Chaplain, St George's, Berlin (Europe).

WOMEN IN THE QUEEN'S HALL ORCHESTRA

To the Editor of The Times

Sir, — Will you allow me to point out the significance of a new departure inaugurated, after years of striving, by Sir Henry Wood — namely, the inclusion of women in a first-class orchestra.

To begin with, the mere fact of belonging to certain bands enables a player to ask a good fee for lessons, and as it is mainly by teaching that orchestral musicians earn a livelihood, it is easy to gauge the importance to women of admission within the pale — a privilege till now restricted, for some mysterious reason, to harpists.

But another point seems to me more interesting. Hitherto, after leaving the musical college, in which perhaps she led the band or played a wind instrument, a girl found herself out off from all connexion with music, except through teaching. The effect of this isolation on the music soul can be imagined. An orchestral player will grumble at the grind of rehearsals and so on, but meanwhile he is immersed in the stream, taking in new ideas, acquiring new technique, and equipping himself automatically for the exercise of any special gift he may happen to possess. Is it conducting? If so,

ON THIS DAY

October 21, 1913

The "Fruits of the movement" can now be seen in the plenitude of women in every orchestra in the world. The news from New York reminds us that [Dame] Ethel and Mrs Pankhurst were both militant suffragettes who suffered imprisonment in Holloway

teaching children in the suburbs will not reveal the fact to himself or anyone else. Is he a born repertorist? — and this is the road to the operatic career; unless he has the status of a professional musician it will be almost impossible for him to get a footing behind the scenes. Is he, above all, a composer? If so, it is in the orchestra that instrumentation and the whole complicated machinery of his art can be learnt as nowhere else, unless with an expenditure of time and trouble that not every one can afford.

People often ask, where are the great women composers? I wonder how many great male

composers there would be if men had been completely shut out from the workaday world of art, deprived of the bracing, the concentration, the comradeship, the insupportable training and stimulus of professional life.

It may be that time must elapse before we see the fruits of the movement of which Sir Henry's splendid achievement is a symptom; but judging by the portraits in science, literature and other branches of art, see them we shall some day.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Ethel Smyth, Mus. Doc.

MRS PANKHURST RELEASED

(From Our Correspondent)

New York, October 20

Mrs Pankhurst was released from Ellis Island upon her own recognisance and landed here this afternoon. The order was received from Washington shortly after noon. No band was exacted. A large crowd cheered her on her arrival.

The decision to admit Mrs Pankhurst was reached after President Wilson had conferred with Mr Wilson, Secretary of Labour, and the hearing had been concluded before Mr Caminetti, Commissioner of Immigration. The understanding is that Mrs Pankhurst will depart after fulfilling her lecture engagements.

NEWS

Party leaders back moral crusade

John Major and Tony Blair backed Frances Lawrence's call for a national movement to tackle violence and promote good citizenship. The party leaders praised Mrs Lawrence, whose husband was murdered at the end of last year, and endorsed her personal manifesto to reverse the deterioration of society. The movement would encourage debate and then campaign for effective action. Pages 1, 14, 21

Tax row shakes German coalition

The German governing coalition was badly shaken by a fierce dispute over how to raise sufficient tax revenue to plug the budget deficit and stay on target to meet the criteria for entering the European monetary union. The junior coalition partner Free Democrats were accused of betraying an earlier promise to cut taxes. Pages 1, 8, 11, 21, 48

Dream goes off rails

Robert Morton set out to build his dream home, complete with swimming pool, after moving to a smallholding in Lincolnshire. His dream almost came true with the unwitting help of BR, his employer. Page 1

Major stands firm

The Prime Minister has insisted on the right to hire and fire ministers in spite of a select committee proposal that any minister who misleads Parliament should resign. Page 2

The wrong ending

Wallace and his loyal dog Gromit were missing, feared dumped, after being left in the back of a New York taxi. Page 3

Stagg hits out

Colin Stagg, the man acquitted of murdering Rachel Nickell, reacted with fury when a newspaper printed evidence ruled inadmissible at the trial. Page 5

NHS 'illusion'

The "internal market" in the National Health Service is largely an illusion, according to a watchdog's study. Page 4

Ceasefire predicted

The IRA will declare another ceasefire but will attempt to launch further bomb attacks on mainland Britain and in Northern Ireland before laying down their arms, the Chief Constable of the RUC said. Page 6

No sex s'll vous plaît, we're French

Sex has gone out of fashion in France with the generation that sought free love in the 1960s turning prudish as it enters middle age, an opinion poll has found. The survey showed that the French want less nudity, less sex and more old-fashioned romance, and were offended by some advertisements on billboards and television. Page 11

Goldsmith target

Sir James Goldsmith, buoyed by the success of the Referendum Party conference, is planning public rallies to try to raise membership to 400,000. Page 8

Aberfan remembered

The storms that helped to turn a mountainside into a torrent of mud at Aberfan 30 years ago are now destroying the monument put up in memory of the 144 who died in the disaster. Page 9

Paedophile protest

The Belgian Prime Minister and families of alleged paedophile victims clashed as hundreds of thousands of people marched through Brussels in remembrance of missing children. Page 10

Lebed's successor

President Yeltsin sought to calm the turmoil within his administration by appointing a tame Kremlin insider to replace General Aleksandr Lebed. Page 11

Clinton's key voters

President Clinton and Bob Dole divide America's male vote almost equally but Mr Clinton leads by 20 to 30 points among women, and that in a nutshell is why the President is cruising towards re-election. Page 12

Heavy defeat

The leader of Shinshinto, Japan's main opposition party, conceded defeat for his group in the general election. Page 13



Apple of his eye: Joshua Redwood, 6, tucked into a new variety launched at Covent Garden yesterday. The Red Pippin, formerly called Fiesta but renamed by fruitgrowers because the original lacked consumer appeal, should be in shops today. Apple Day

BUSINESS

Investors' rebellion: Greycoat, the £500 million property firm, faces a fight for survival as investors call for the sale of its entire portfolio and the distribution of the proceeds to shareholders. Page 48

Christmas boom: Retailers are gearing up for big sales in the run-up to Christmas. Page 48

Emu demand: Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, urged Britain to be ready to enter the European single currency at the start of 1999. Page 48

QPR flotation: Chris Wright, the multimillionaire music and media businessman, is expected to book a profit of more than £6 million from the flotation of Loftus Road, owner of Queens Park Rangers and Wasps RFC. Page 48

ARTS

The whole story: The 34-volume *Dictionary of Art* seeks to encompass everything from prehistoric cave painting to multimedia installations of lesbian erotica. Page 18

On the podium: Christoph von Dohnanyi has been appointed principal conductor of the Philharmonia, good news for both the orchestra and the wider London musical scene. Page 19

First steps: The Royal Ballet's new Covent Garden season opened with a mixed bill devoted to Ravel's music, including a Christopher Wheeldon premiere. Page 19

Jazz double: In London, Harry Edison offers playful arabesques on his muted trumpet, while in New York, Ahmad Jamal perfects the minimalist ethic. Page 19

MIND AND MATTER

Baseball and progress: Nigel Hawkes reports on a book which shows how America's national sport can throw fresh light on Darwin's thoughts. Page 15

Image maker: "Paula's a very needy person. Someone with a big, deep emotional hole that constantly needs filling. She needed me." Noreen Taylor interviews Gerry Agar, the former PR of Paula Yates. Page 16

Joseph Brodsky: In the first of two excerpts from his collected essays, the late poet argues that to develop good taste in literature one must first learn to read poetry—the most concise way of conveying the human experience. Page 17

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SPORT

Football: Newcastle United returned to the top of the FA Carling Premiership with a stunning 5-0 victory over the champions, Manchester United. Page 25

Golf: Ernie Els, of South Africa, kept his unbeaten record in the World Match Play Championship, winning the title for the third successive year. Page 27

Boxing: There was little style on the Nile as Chris Eubank won his comeback contest in Cairo and no joy for Richie Woodhall, who lost his world title bout in Washington. Page 26

Rugby union: Toulouse defeated a tired Cardiff side in the Heineken Cup while Harlequins' French imports inspired their victory over Neath. Page 35

School sport: Eton have yet to make the sort of impact in the Boodle and Dunthorne Cup for independent schools that their illustrious football pedigree demands. Page 31

Selling: Lucy Duncan, sponsored by The Times in the BT Global Challenge, reaches the South East trade winds on Concert. Page 32

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TV LISTINGS

Preview: Gaby Roslin presents more videos by people unembarrassed at revealing their travel secrets in *The Real Holiday Show* (Channel 4, 8.30pm). Review: *Prime Suspect 5* proves a cracker for Matthew Bond. Page 42

OPINION

Memorial manifesto

The powerful words that have come from Frances Lawrence should find an echo across the country today. Page 21

The sleeping elephant around which each of the main parties tries to tiptoe was awoken in Brighton with powerful effect. Page 21

For the sake of all those who lost loved ones in Dunblane it must be hoped that the aftermath of their tragedy is handled with greater sense and sensitivity than was true at Aberfan. Page 21

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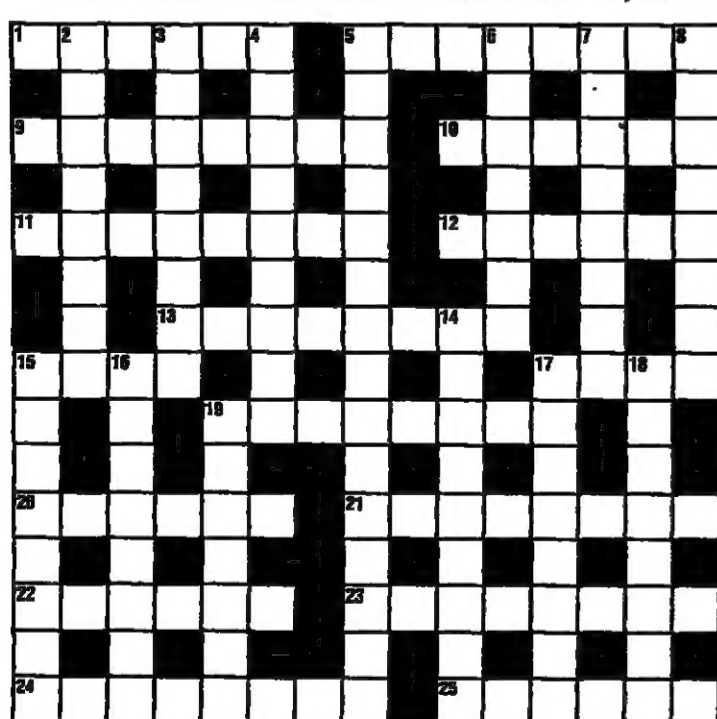
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THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,304



- ACROSS
- Little pet's mate turned tail (6).
 - Suggested a theologian must accept leading position with church (8).
 - Some of Shaw's plays were so enjoyable, others not (8).
 - It's a republic, sovereign being relatively undervalued (6).
 - Unexpectedly come upon extra profits (8).
 - Fake a French coin once used in Spain (6).
 - Reinforce lock on bar (8).
 - Fruit for the fleet? Not by the sound of it (4).
 - Prepare to fire a chum (4).
 - New start for big cat facing unknown danger (8).
 - Fondling worries head of school (6).
 - Real fun I badly miss in Germany (8).
- DOWN
- Get volunteers to fill old container (6).
 - Partner's partial yet ample hand-out rejected (8).
 - Sound artist — one superior to Constable? (8).
 - Fish with doctor in Arctic waste (6).
 - Like deposit on bottle everyone used originally (8).
 - Verbal onslaught awful people uttered (8).
 - Argue foolishly about stake bringing security (9).
 - When there's a lowering of cover that may be felt immediately? (2,3,4,2,1,3).
 - Former pupil identifying medicinal compound before dawn? (7).
 - Councillor formerly brought in to work for musicians (8).
 - Absolutely secure standoff (8).
 - Small current — less than amp on line, in a way (9).
 - Hollow glasses filled with something promising (8).
 - "Ring" director who works in the theatre? (8).
 - Travel north about a mile to get to plant (8).
 - Ride across island and get shot (8).
 - One who tries frozen stuff and nothing else? (7).

Times Two Crossword, page 48

LATEST ROAD AND WEATHER CONDITIONS

UK Weather - All regions 0336 444 910
UK Roads - All regions 0336 401 410
Roads and UK Roads 0336 401 748
National Motorways 0336 401 910
Channel crossing 0336 401 388
N. Sea 0336 407 505

Weather by Fax 0336 411 216
by Phone 0336 411 216
by Fax (inter page) 0336 411 216

World City Weather 0336 411 216
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6 day forecast

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Dial from your fax handset, you may have to dial to poll receive mode.
50p per minute at all other rates.

HOURS OF DARKNESS
Sun rises 7.35 am Sun sets 5.54 pm
Moon rises 12.58 am Moon sets 3.30 pm
Full moon October 23
London 5.54 am to 7.27 am
Bristol 6.04 am to 7.47 am
Edinburgh 5.57 pm to 7.59 am
Manchester 5.59 pm to 7.49 am
Perthshire 6.19 pm to 7.58 am

FLIGHT SAVING
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See Tables p.